

Sent: March 4, 2020 8:25 AM

Subject: Ministry of Education Special Update - COVID-19

The Ministry of Education has circulated updated information in response to COVID-19, including updates from the 2 press conferences held yesterday, and important information/guidance on travel, event planning, greetings and self isolation. There is also a [resource](#) that has been developed to support parents, teachers and families when speaking with children about COVID-19.

This information is also available at www.surreyschools.ca/coronavirus.

Update March 3, 2020 at 6 p.m.

B.C. announces 10th, 11th and 12th cases, all adults with recent travel history to Iran who are recovery in homes in the Vancouver Coastal or Fraser Health regions. Please see joint statement from Health Minister Dix and Provincial Health Officer (PHO) Dr. Bonnie Henry: <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2020HLTH0058-000370>

Updated March 3, 2020 at 3 p.m.

B.C. announces 9th confirmed COVID-19 case, a man in his 50's who lives in the Fraser Health region and who recently returned from Iran. Please see joint statement from Health Minister Dix and Provincial Health Officer (PHO) Dr. Bonnie Henry: <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2020HLTH0056-000365>

TRAVEL

Along with encouraging proper hand hygiene and staying home when unwell, the PHO also advises travellers (spring break, school trips etc.) to conduct risk assessments in advance and consider postponing trips to impacted areas - while noting that impacted areas are changing as COVID-19 continues to evolve. Please find all current health-related travel notices here: <https://travel.gc.ca/travelling/health-safety/travel-health-notice>

EVENT PLANNING

Event planners are asked to do a risk assessment. While the PHO advises there is no reason to cancel events in B.C., she recommends event planners to do a risk assessment considering what is happening in the local community and who may attend the event to lower the risk of respiratory illnesses including COVID-19. Participants who have been to Iran or China or in close contact with someone who has been to COVID-19 impacted areas, along with anyone with underlying health conditions should avoid mass gatherings and the PHO further advises anyone who is not feeling well, not to attend public events.

GREETINGS

The PHO asks people refrain from customary greetings such as handshaking, hugging and kissing during the remainder of flu season.

KIDS and COVID-19

The PHO and BCCDC have created a Q&A document to help parents, teachers and families talk to children about COVID-19, the Q&A is available at on the BCCDC website at: [http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/coronavirus-\(novel\)#For--schools--and--childcare](http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/coronavirus-(novel)#For--schools--and--childcare)

For parents and educators, CBC Kids along with the PHO produced a kid-centric Q and A video about COVID-19, please feel free to share with your school community. CBC Kids/ COVID-19 story: <https://www.cbc.ca/kidsnews/post/watch-coronavirus-facts-versus-fiction>

Please note provincial recommendations on travel-related, self isolation:

- The Provincial Health Officer is advising people who have been to China and Iran in the last 14 days, or who have been in contact with someone who has, to call public health officials and self-isolate for 14 days.
- The Provincial Health Officer is also advising that anyone who is concerned they may have been exposed to, or are experiencing symptoms of, the coronavirus should contact their primary care provider, local public health office or call 811. Translation services for 811 are available in more than 130 languages.

Useful Links

- Mar. 2, joint statement from the Ministry of Health and the Provincial Health Officer: <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2020HLTH0054-000361>
- Feb. 25, joint statement from the Ministry of Health and the Provincial Health Officer: <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2020HLTH0048-000330>
- Feb. 24, joint statement from the Ministry of Health and the Provincial Health Officer: <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2020HLTH0043-000320>
- Feb. 20 joint statement from the Ministry of Health and the Provincial Health Officer: <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2020HLTH0041-000304>
- Feb. 19 joint statement from the Ministry of Health and the Provincial Health Officer: <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2020HLTH0039-000294>
- Feb. 14 joint statement from the Ministry of Health and the Provincial Health Officer: <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2020HLTH0036-000284>
- Feb. 6 joint statement from the Ministry of Health and the Provincial Health Officer: <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2020HLTH0025-000236>
- Feb. 4 joint statement from the Ministry of Health and the Provincial Health Officer: <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2020HLTH0023-000222>
- Feb. 3 joint statement from the Ministry of Health and the Provincial Health Officer - <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2020HLTH0020-000210>
- Ministry of Health response plans - <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/health/about-bc-s-health-care-system/office-of-the-provincial-health-officer/current-health-topics/pandemic-influenza>
- Novel Coronavirus Q&A from HealthLinkBC: <https://www.healthlinkbc.ca/health-feature/coronavirus>
- BC Centre for Disease Control: [http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/coronavirus-\(novel\)](http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/coronavirus-(novel))
- Government of Canada - Novel Coronavirus in China Travel Health Notice: <https://travel.gc.ca/travelling/health-safety/travel-health-notices/210>

Communication Services

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