



Battle River School Division

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March 15, 2020

To: Parents / Guardians of BRSD students

Re: Coronavirus update

Hello everyone.

We understand there are many concerns / questions about how to keep children safe during these uncertain times. We will post question and answer updates on our website and here is important information we know today:

1. Alberta Health Services is being very cautious and testing a lot of people for the virus. There are currently no reports of anyone in our school division testing positive. As of Saturday, March 14, a total of 39 people in Alberta had tested positive for the virus, with more than 7000 tests coming back negative.
2. In BRSD, our top priority is to help ensure students and staff stay safe and well. We are working under the guidance of Alberta's Chief Medical Officer of Health, with the goal of maintaining safety and continuing to offer a reassuring, positive learning environment. All BRSD schools are open, with enhanced disinfecting practices taking place. In addition, we will be cancelling or changing some of the schools' activities, to help reduce the potential of exposure for our students and staff.

We are cancelling this round of student-led conferences and parent teacher interviews; tournaments, presentations and events that require students to gather in larger groups; field trips to locations where there might be crowds such as museums, ski hills and more; and restricting the number of volunteers and community members who enter our buildings. Schools that offer after-school care will continue to do so.

3. The most important direction from the Chief Medical Officer of Health is **zero tolerance** for allowing anyone who is ill to attend school. This applies to students, staff and visitors.

Anyone who is not feeling well is asked to stay home. If children become unwell over the course of a school day, they will be isolated from other students until they can be picked up.

4. Our school staff are not able to provide health advice. Anyone wondering if their children should be tested for the virus is encouraged to call Healthlink, by dialing 811. If they feel your family should take precautions, please follow their guidance regarding self-isolation and let your school know your children will not be in attendance. There is also a self-assessment tool, as well as great information, available at <https://www.alberta.ca/coronavirus-info-for-albertans.aspx#top>

5. Parents who are concerned about the health or safety of their children are always welcome to keep them home. School staff will support families in this by making learning resources available to students.

In addition, anyone who is planning to travel outside of the country will be subject to a self-isolation period when they return to Canada. This means students who return from an out-of-Canada trip will not be permitted to attend school for two weeks.

This is an unusual situation and we are trying to be proactive to help ensure everyone stays healthy and well. You can find additional questions and answers at brsd.ab.ca Thank you for your support.

Rita Marler, Superintendent of Schools

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