



March 13, 2020

To: All Parents/Guardians
From: Darryl Seguin, Superintendent

The COVID-19 situation is changing rapidly around the world and here in Alberta. The health and safety of staff and students is a priority in Livingstone Range School Division and we want to reassure our staff, students, and parents that we have a management plan to prepare for and respond to COVID-19 in our jurisdiction.

GENERAL INFORMATION

If you are sick with a cough or fever, stay home and call **Health Link 811**.

For the latest information from Alberta Health Services visit their [website](#).

The Division's COVID-19 webpage is our official communications channel. Check www.lrsd.ca/our-division/covid-19 regularly for updates. The page includes:

- [Information Sheet for Staff & Families](#)
- [COVID-19 FAQ'S for Families](#)
- [Talking to Kids About COVID-19](#)

STAYING HOME

WHEN SHOULD I KEEP MY CHILD HOME FROM SCHOOL?

Keep your child home if they develop a fever and/or cough or shortness of breath AND meet any of the criteria below:

- Travelled to anywhere outside of Canada; OR
- Had close contact* with a confirmed or probable case of COVID-19; OR
- Had close contact* with a person with acute respiratory illness who has travelled anywhere outside of Canada within 14 days prior to illness onset.

If a child demonstrates or develops symptoms at school, parents will be notified to pick the child up and take them home.

WHAT IF I WANT TO KEEP MY CHILD HOME AS A PRECAUTION?

Leaders in providing quality education to rural students in a dynamic learning environment.

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As a parent, it is your right to not send your child to school if you feel it is not in their best interest to attend. However, the risk of COVID-19 infection in Alberta remains relatively low, and Livingstone Range School Division is taking necessary precautions and preventative measures to limit the likelihood of illness transmission. Unless and until the decision is made to close schools in consultation with Alberta Health Services and Alberta Education, LRSD schools will remain open in our jurisdiction and we encourage students to be part of the learning there.

CAN MY CHILD ACCESS LESSONS AND HOMEWORK REMOTELY?

Teacher and student absences due to COVID-19 have the potential to cause great disruption for student learning. Although the value of group discussion and classroom activities would be missing, using technology is one strategy to help provide some continuity of learning.

LRSD's virtual learning tools, include:

- Google Classroom, Hangouts, Meet
- Classroom web pages
- Enhanced Learning Model
- OverDrive
- Emailed lessons

For those students with limited internet access, teachers and Principals will work with families on a case-by-case basis to help provide materials and instruction.

GATHERING RESTRICTIONS

To help prevent the spread of COVID-19, Alberta has implemented new public health restrictions. Large sporting events, conference, and community events with more than 250 attendees are now cancelled. Schools and daycares can remain open at this time, but steps should be taken to ensure no more than 250 people are in the same room at any given time.

On March 12 the Alberta Schools' Athletic Association postponed indefinitely both basketball and wrestling provincials.

For LRSD schools, the following gathering restrictions are now in place:

- Activities involving students and staff of schools MAY continue. This includes activities such as after school clubs, practices etc. Local field trips may continue as planned.
- Activities scheduled to occur outside our local area (provincial, national and international trips) are cancelled.
- Events that include populations from other schools and/or parents or other community members shall be postponed until further notice. This includes events such as Parent-Teacher Interviews, school athletic competitions, drama/musical performances, etc.
- Schools with a combined population (staff and students) greater than 250 may not hold whole school assemblies.

TRAVELLING RESTRICTIONS

Albertans are NOT recommended to travel outside of the country at this time. Albertans who are currently travelling outside of the country are recommended to self-isolate on their return for 14 days, independent of the country they were visiting.

You may have holidays planned over the Easter break that take your child(ren) out of country or to a region in Canada that becomes one of substantive risk of contraction. As such, all parents/guardians are encouraged to review the guide below regarding self-monitoring and self-isolating. Parents/guardians are reminded that circumstances associated with risk and exposure change rapidly, including travel advisories.

If you are planning travel outside of Canada, consult the:

- [Public Health Agency of Canada's Travel Health Advisories page](#)
- [World Health Organization's bulletin for travel advice](#)

Anyone returning from any international location should consult the Info for Travellers section on the [Government of Alberta website](#) for more information about precautions to follow upon return to Alberta.

All planned LRSD school trips outside of the province and outside of Canada have been cancelled.

SCHOOL CLOSURE

School closure is guided by Alberta Health Services and Alberta Education. The purpose of closing schools will be to keep children and staff from getting sick. If schools are closed, staff and children are to stay at home. Parents may want to consider exploring child care options in the event that a school is closed.

LRSD PANDEMIC PLAN

LRSD receives regular updates from Alberta Health Services and we follow their guidelines for infection prevention and control. In addition, LRSD has a Pandemic Management Plan enacted that helps us to prepare for and respond to COVID-19.

We are carefully monitoring the situation daily and have implemented strategies to minimize spread, prepare for absences, and communicate effectively, such as increasing custodial staff hours, increasing disinfecting frequency, increasing disinfection on school buses, cross-training staff for essential services, using technology to provide learning continuity when staff or students are absent, implementing travel restrictions, and ongoing and updated information on the Division website.

We thank each member of the Livingstone Range School Division for being diligent about prevention and, where necessary, self-isolation to help stop the spread of the COVID-19 virus. In these uncertain times, there is strength in having a community as amazing as our LRSD staff, students, and families.

Darryl Seguin

Superintendent, Livingstone Range School Division