



Wild Rose School Division

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March 13, 2020

WRSD Families and Students,

With all of the information and misinformation that is being shared in our communities, I wanted to take a moment to share some pertinent information with you.

We are currently taking our guidance from Alberta Health Services, who have much more expertise in this area than we do. At this point there have been no confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the communities in our jurisdiction.

Things have been changing rapidly, especially over the past few days. The situation is expected to continue evolving. WRSD has focused on maintaining the health and safety of our students and staff. The following are some of the measures that we have enacted:

1. We have been working through our Pandemic Plan, to enable us to be as prepared as possible.
2. We have ensured that our schools have an adequate supply of soap and hand sanitizer available. School staff continue to stress and encourage the importance of personal hygiene, specifically proper handwashing.
3. Our maintenance and custodial staff are focussing their highest attention to cleaning 'touch points' in the schools, such as desktops and doorknobs.
4. As a precaution, we have suspended community usage of our facilities to restrict the number of people in our schools.
5. All school-sponsored travel outside of the province for students has been cancelled.
6. Teachers are being encouraged to talk with students in age appropriate ways about any fears that they may have related to the pandemic. It is normal for students to have some anxiety, based on what they hear and see. It is important that students see important adults in their lives remaining calm and reasonable. This [parent resource](#) is a useful resource to talk with your students (all grade levels).

At this time, schools will remain open, on the advice of the Chief Medical Officer of Alberta. Should this change, WRSD will be ready to react accordingly. Parents always have the option to keep their children at home, if they feel it is necessary. If your child is not attending school for any reason, we ask that you continue to contact the school in the manner that you would normally to inform them of their absence.

We are also asking parents to send their children to school with their own, clearly identified filled water bottle. This precaution will minimize the usage of water fountains, which is an area that the coronavirus could easily be transmitted.

We will continue to keep parents informed as the situation evolves, through the website, social media and the [School Messenger program](#).

For the most up to date information regarding COVID-19 in Alberta, including the latest press conference of the Chief Medical Officer, please visit [COVID-19 coronavirus info for Albertans](#).

Greg Wedman
Deputy Superintendent

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