

March 17, 2020

Dear families,

What we know today

Today the Chief Medical Officer of Health for Alberta announced further, aggressive measures to protect public health; calling a state of public health emergency for the province of Alberta. Please take a moment to watch today's press conference as we all have a responsibility to reduce the spread of this virus.

- [March 17, 2020 – Medical Officer of Health press conference](#)
- [March 17, 2020 - Premier Kenney press conference](#)

In some schools, we have an excess of 50 teachers and support staff spread out through the building. The changes announced today will have no impact on our plans to deliver meaningful programming to students. This afternoon, the Medical Officer of Health for southern Alberta assured us that our schools may function as they are today, so long as no gathering exceeds 50. Administration and staff will work together to ensure that gatherings do not come near the 50 person limit.

In the coming days, students and families will enter our schools to collect belongings, we will enforce all recommended precautionary preventative health measures to reduce the spread of viruses and keep all individuals as safe as possible. We will continue to enforce the social distancing measures of keeping a 2 meter distance between individuals. In addition, it is critical for us all to reduce the risk of transmission by practising good hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette. Avoid touching your nose/mouth/eyes with your hands and engage in rigorous cleaning practices of hard surfaces.

Teachers will contact families

Today we asked teachers to call home and check on students and families. They are also to ask a few questions to help us in our planning for delivering instruction. Families can expect to receive a phone call from their teacher in the next couple of days.

Planning for instruction

Tomorrow our team will give direction to our teachers from the Community Early Learning Program through grade 12 with respect to what their programming will look like and the timeline for implementation.

Teachers who are already prepared to deliver programming online, or in a blended format (a combination of print and online learning) may begin delivering programming for their students as early as tomorrow afternoon. All other teachers will receive professional development support in order to build their ability to provide programming online and through a blended model. It is expected that teachers begin program delivery no later than Wednesday, March 25.

Please watch your email, as you will soon receive this information from teachers.

Through a conversation with the Deputy Minister of Education today and we have every confidence that government is working to build a plan that protects the future of our graduating grade 12.

We appreciate your patience through this process. We know that families will still have many questions and we are working to provide as much information as possible as soon as possible.

Available supports

Our Family School Liaison Worker (FSLW) team has begun reaching out to families in their school communities. We encourage you to reach out to the FSLW in your child's school if you require assistance with accessing community supports or feel that your child may require social/emotional supports during this time.

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| ALEXANDRA MIDDLE SCHOOL | Jenna Bentley – 403.581.7671 |
| ECOLE CONNAUGHT SCHOOL | This school is currently supported by an AHS Mental Health Worker. If your child is not currently receiving supports from Joeleene Brassard, please call: Monique MacDonald – 403.866.7793 |
| CRESCENT HEIGHTS SCHOOL | Jenesse Chamberlin – 403.581.7978 |
| CRESTWOOD SCHOOL | Mary Tulip – 403.866.5873 |
| DR. KEN SAUER SCHOOL | Jordan Curliss – 403.866.7790 |
| DR. ROY WILSON LEARNING CENTRE | Britni Chambers – 403.866.4990 |
| ELM STREET SCHOOL | Monique MacDonald – 403.866.7793 Jordan Curliss – 403.866.7790 |
| GEORGE DAVISON SCHOOL | Monique MacDonald – 403.866.7793 |
| HERALD SCHOOL | Erin Gerrard-Evjen – 403.878.0764 |
| MEDICINE HAT HIGH SCHOOL | Lillian Murphy – 403.866.5609 |
| MEDICINE HAT CHRISTIAN SCHOOL | This school is currently supported by an AHS Mental Health Worker. If your child is not currently receiving supports from Emily Stuart, please call: Lillian Murphy – 403.866.5609 |
| OUTREACH PROGRAMS | Erin Gerrard-Evjen – 403.878.0764 |
| RIVER HEIGHTS SCHOOL | Tannis Bailey – 403.866.4966 |
| ROSS GLEN SCHOOL | Erin Gerrard-Evjen – 403.878.0764 Nick Paquin – 403.502.3462 |
| SOUTHVIEW COMMUNITY SCHOOL | Tannis Bailey – 403.866.4966 |
| VINCENT MASSEY SCHOOL | Mary Tulip – 403.866.5873 |
| WEBSTER NIBLOCK SCHOOL | Jordan Curliss – 403.866.7790 |

At any point, please visit the mhpsd.ca website and social media pages, as this web page will be updated as significant changes occur.

Be well,
Mark Davidson, Superintendent of Schools
 Medicine Hat Public School Division