



School District of Mystery Lake

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Success for All
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March 15, 2020

Dear Parents / Guardians,

We understand that there are concerns and questions surrounding the coronavirus (COVID-19) and its impact on the community.

The health, safety and well-being of our staff and students is at the core of all decisions. The School District of Mystery Lake has been closely monitoring the situation. We are working with Manitoba Education and the province's team of health professionals to advise our decision making and actions while maintaining quality educational programming.

Late Friday afternoon (March 13, 2020) all districts received a directive from the Minister of Education declaring the following:

March 16 – 20, 2020: Staff and students are in school to prepare and plan for the learning that will take place during the two weeks' students are not in school. The week prior to the scheduled spring break and the week following spring break.

March 23 -27 & April 6 – 10, 2020: Staff are in schools supporting the learning of students who are not in school. **Classes are suspended for students.**

- Updated information to be posted on the SDML website for parents and the public.

We are working in collaboration with Manitoba officials and as per recommendations have implemented a number of actions including the cancellation of the following events until further notice:

- Public special events in SDML schools or buildings
- All facility rentals by outside groups
- Student Led Conferences
- Sporting games and practices
- Band / Choir performances and practices
- All clubs
- Out of province travel
- Field trips
- All out of town professional development

We are also implementing the additional measures recommended by Manitoba Health:

- Limiting visitor access to schools
- Limiting face to face meetings with a high number of people in attendance
- Avoid greetings that involve touching or handshakes

- Encouraging frequent and proper handwashing
- Encouraging staff and students to cough or sneeze into their elbow or tissue
- Increasing the cleaning of surfaces and doorknobs in our schools and workplace
- Reminding all staff, parents and students to stay home if they are ill.

Until further notice, we are limiting the length of the school day. Students will be in the building no more than 30 minutes before and 30 minutes after school ends. Only credit courses outside of this schedule can continue.

For students who show signs of illness while at school, accommodate them in a separate area apart from others until parents can be contacted to take them home.

We will keep you informed of new developments as they arise. We encourage you to monitor the following sites for the most accurate and up to date information:

Resources:

<https://sharedhealthmb.ca/health-providers/coronavirus-resources/>

Information for the Public:

<https://www.gov.mb.ca/health/>

Travel Advisories:

<https://travel.gc.ca/travelling/advisories>

Specific health concerns should be directed to your family physician or Health Links 1-888-315-9257.

As always, if your child is feeling unwell, please keep them home. Parents and guardians with questions or concerns regarding their child's attendance are asked to call the school directly. If any member of your family is showing symptoms, Manitoba Health is recommending that all members of the household self-quarantine. Specific health concerns should be directed to your family physician or by calling Manitoba Health Links.

The School District of Mystery Lake will be communicating as quickly and effectively as we can and it is important for all us to be accessible and flexible to protect ourselves and each other. As the virus spreads, we will be following the health and educational authorities that are best positioned to inform our decisions and help us direct effective actions.

Angele Bartlett
Co-Superintendent

Lorie Henderson
Co-Superintendent