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March 13, 2020

Dear Living Sky School Division Families:

We know that school communities are growing increasingly concerned since the announcement that a case of COVID-19 has been confirmed in Saskatchewan. While there are currently no confirmed cases of COVID-19 in our division, Living Sky School Division is working on its planning to minimize any potential impact on our students and staff. Saskatchewan Health Authority (SHA) is actively monitoring the situation and leading the response in Saskatchewan.

Our focus is on the health and safety of our students and staff members. At this time, we are taking the following actions in our schools to limit exposure and transmission of the virus:

- Caretaking staff and all bus drivers have increased cleaning and disinfecting protocols on high touch points (example: doorknobs, light switches, desktops, bus grab rails, seats, etc.).
- School staff will remind students of good handwashing techniques, and posters will be provided to reinforce this.
- Students should bring water bottles to school to limit use of the water fountain.
- Out of an abundance of caution, school and division hosted events are cancelled as well as outside rentals/use of schools (*see Information Sheet*).
- We are asking staff and students who are feeling ill (fever, cough, difficulty breathing) to stay home and call the HealthLine 811 for advice.

The SHA recommends the following actions to help prevent respiratory illnesses, including flu and COVID-19, from spreading:

- Practice proper cough and sneezing etiquette (into the bend of your elbow);
- Wash your hands often with soap and water; if soap and water are not available, use a hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol;
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands;
- Maintain safe food practices, and
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.

We take our direction from the health authority and will continue to respond and act in-line with their recommendations. Please note that school staff are unable to answer medical questions.

We will share any further information we receive on COVID-19. Please visit our website at [www.lskysd.ca](http://www.lskysd.ca) for division-specific updates and [www.saskatchewan.ca/coronavirus](http://www.saskatchewan.ca/coronavirus) for official health authority information that will be continually updated.

Living Sky School Division wishes to assure our stakeholders that we are basing our preparedness planning and our decision-making on the guidelines and recommendations of healthcare officials with the training, knowledge, and expertise required to manage health concerns.

Sincerely,

Brenda Vickers, Director of Education

P.S. Please review the following Information Sheet and Attachments (including Talking with Children Tips).

## Information Sheet:

Based on the latest information provided to us by the Saskatchewan Health Authority and the Public Health Agency of Canada, Living Sky School Division will be taking the following actions:

### **Students, staff or family members who become ill:**

While the school division has no authority to implement quarantine or isolation requirements, nor is it currently recommended by health authorities, we strongly advise anyone who is feeling ill to stay at home. Individuals who are in self-isolation should monitor their symptoms and immediately report worsening of symptoms to a health care provider or public health authority for further assessment.

If children become ill (fever, coughing, shortness of breath) at school, they will be placed in a separate space or at a two-meter distance from other children until their parents/caregivers arrive at the school to take them home. It is important that parents/caregivers pick up children.

### **School and division hosted events, school rentals, etc.:**

Out of an abundance of caution, the following changes will be effective immediately:

- Cancellation of field trips and out-of-school activities;
- Cancellation of guest speakers, external presentations, and tours;
- Cancellation of large student gatherings (such as pep rallies and assemblies);
- Cancellation of all professional development, leadership meetings, committee meetings, and similar large gatherings;
- Cancellation of any outside rentals/use of schools (ie. club sports, archery, SCC meetings, etc.); and
- Student-led conferences will be postponed until further notice.

### **Travel:**

The Government of Canada recommends avoiding all travel or all non-essential travel.

We are not here to make decisions for you about international travel; however, should you choose to travel, please follow the recommendations of SHA.

All travelers should self-monitor for symptoms of COVID-19 (fever, cough or difficulty breathing) for 14 days after returning to Canada and avoid places where you cannot easily separate yourself from others if you become ill. If you have even mild symptoms, stay home and call HealthLine811 for advice. (Please refer to the attached *Self-Monitoring Information Sheet*.)

Self-isolation is required for 14 days after returning from travel to areas with widespread sustained transmission of COVID-19 or exposure to a person with COVID-19. If you have symptoms, self-isolation is required to prevent you from possibly spreading COVID-19 to others. Self-isolation continues until testing is completed and results are obtained. If the result is positive for COVID-19, self-isolation continues until results of further tests confirm that you have cleared the virus. (Please refer to the attached *Self-Isolation Information Sheet*.)

### **Attendance:**

In our schools, we continue to encourage good hand washing practices. Thank you for reinforcing this message at home. While we encourage good school attendance, please remember that if a student is ill, he/she should remain at home until he/she is well.

Please be aware that things are changing quickly, and the most up-to-date information is available at: [www.saskatchewan.ca/coronavirus](http://www.saskatchewan.ca/coronavirus)