

## **Website Posting March 15, 2020**

“Given the rise of the COVID-19 pandemic, we know parents, students, and school officials are very concerned. I want to assure all Albertans that their children’s safety is top of mind in all our decisions, and we are making the best public health decisions we can with the information we have, in this rapidly developing situation. We are prepared to make changes if and when the situation warrants it.”

Dr. Deena Hinshaw, Chief Medical Officer of Health, March 14, 2020

## **School update from Alberta Health Services**

Alberta Health Services has directed that any child or staff member showing any respiratory symptoms such as fever, cough, fatigue, and/or muscle aches must stay home from school/child care. If these symptoms develop during the school day parents will be contacted and the child will be sent home as per school procedures. Students or staff members with a confirmed case of COVID-19 must receive clearance from public health officials before returning to school; students and staff members with a non COVID-19 or unknown respiratory illness should not return to school until 14 days after symptom onset.

**If your child is sick, please do not send them to school. To view a parent's guide to school attendance in graphic form, [CLICK HERE](#)**

A conference call was held Saturday with the chief medical officer of health and more than 500 representatives from Alberta’s school boards, school authorities, and education stakeholders.

On March 13, Alberta recommended that schools remain open at this time. The World Health Organization does not recommend school closures as the only way to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in children.

Alberta continues to monitor the province’s situation carefully. If the situation warrants it, the Alberta government could direct the closure of an individual school, a group of schools, an entire school division, or all schools in the province. This would be a decision of Cabinet’s emergency management committee.

In meantime, all schools should take steps to protect the health of students and staff:

- eliminate large gatherings of students
- ensure no more than 250 people are in the same room at any given time
- consider cancelling extracurricular activities that involve physical contact

A new guide has been developed to help schools and daycares reduce the risk of spreading COVID-19.

The [new guide for schools and child care programs](#) has been posted under “Info for schools and child care centres.”

We will continue to update this document based on feedback received from education stakeholders.

For the latest updates and recommendations on protecting yourself and your community, visit [alberta.ca/COVID19](http://alberta.ca/COVID19).

View a Parent Guide for School Attendance in graphic form in the gallery below.

To view COVID-19 resources shared on the Palliser Regional Schools' webpage previously, go to:

**COVID-19 Entire Website Post 2020-03-12:** [CLICK HERE](#)

**COVID-19 Letters to Parents 2020-03-12:** [CLICK HERE](#)

**COVID-19 AHS Self Isolation Information 2020-02-05:** [CLICK HERE](#)

**COVID-19 Letters to Parents 2020-02-04:** [CLICK HERE](#)