



March 13th, 2020

Parents and Guardians of PCSD Students

Cases of coronavirus (COVID-19) were announced in Manitoba yesterday.

We are moving to the response stage of dealing with coronavirus (COVID-19). We have been advised by Public Health that coronavirus (COVID-19) is almost exclusively spread by people who are showing symptoms. We have also been told that the majority of people who contract coronavirus (COVID-19) experience mild to moderate symptoms and recover.

Prevention is used to protect the spread to vulnerable people and reduce the demands on the medical system for those that will require medical care. We have received guidelines for schools from Manitoba Health and Manitoba Education. The full information from Manitoba Health can be found at <https://news.gov.mb.ca/news/index.html?archive=&item=46930>

Any decisions regarding closing schools will come under direction from Manitoba Health. With these recommendations in mind, we are taking the following steps:

If your child is ill

- If your child feels unwell, especially if they are showing symptoms such as coughing or fever, please keep your child at home. See the Coronavirus Fact Sheet for common symptoms and further information <https://www.gov.mb.ca/health/publichealth/factsheets/coronavirus.pdf>. Contact Health Links, who will assist you regarding next steps and testing. To speak to a Health Links - Info Santé registered nurse, please call 204-788-8200 or toll-free 1-888-315-9257.
- If a child appears ill at school, parents will be called to pick up their child.

Prevention measures at school

- Increased handwashing routines will be in place.
- Continued reminders to use tissues and cough/sneeze into arm.
- Increased cleaning routines on high contact surfaces, including busses
- Social distancing: large group activities and events are cancelled until further notice. (e.g. assemblies, field trips, extra-curricular activities and sporting events)
- Cancellation of outside user groups using the school, until further notice.
- Any decisions regarding closing schools will come under direction from Manitoba Health.

Travel

**“Learning For Living”**



PINE CREEK SCHOOL DIVISION

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Following Manitoba Health recommendations:

If your family is travelling in the coming weeks, or has returned from travel, Public Health advises that you self-monitor for symptoms and stay home if any symptoms occur.

If you are returning from high risk areas, such as Italy, Hubei, Iran or Korea, stay home for 14 days and self-isolate during that time.

We will continue to follow Manitoba Health advice on travel.

Currently, they are recommending no unnecessary travel and that families who do travel should self-monitor and/or self-isolate after travel.

#### Communication

This is a difficult and anxious time for everyone. We will make every effort to continue to provide a calm and nurturing environment for our students, with regular routines and a focus on learning. It is important that we are reassuring, especially with our younger students, and that we maintain community connections.

Information and recommendations are changing rapidly, but we will keep you informed as the situation develops.

A link to the Manitoba Health Coronavirus Information page can be found on our website:

Most up to date information will be available on “New and Announcements” section on the main page of our website: <http://www.pinecreeksd.mb.ca/>

Thank you for your patience and support. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact your Principal.

Donna Miller Fry  
Superintendent,  
Pine Creek School Division

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