

Dear Elk Island Public School families,

At 4 p.m. this afternoon, Alberta's Chief Medical Officer of Health indicated she will not be implementing provincewide school closures at this time. As information about COVID-19 is continually expanding, we want to ensure all Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS) families are provided with ongoing communication from the Division. At this time, EIPS is:

- working with the province to determine the potential impact on students and staff;
- encouraging staff and families to avoid travel outside the country
- asking families travelling outside the country with their children to keep their child away from school for 14 days on return.
- cancelling all assemblies, festivals, athletic competitions and large-group gatherings;
- limiting all scheduled guests and volunteer visits;
- increasing cleaning and sanitizing in all schools and buses;
- shutting down all water-fountain stations—bottle-filling stations remain open and student are required to bring their own water bottle to school;
- reinforcing preventive measures through daily announcements and classroom lesson plans; and
- encouraging all staff and families to follow proper personal hygiene practices, including handwashing, respiratory etiquette and social-distancing strategies while at home and on vacation.

Currently, all EIPS schools remain open and will continue to operate unless otherwise directed by the provincial health authority. If you're concerned about the level of risk for your child, it is understandable if you choose not to send them to school.

Please know, our No. 1 priority is the health and safety of all students, staff and school communities. Over the coming days and weeks, EIPS will continue to keep schools and families updated as information becomes available.

TRAVEL INFORMATION

The World Health Organization has declared COVID-19 a global pandemic. All staff and students planning to travel over the spring break are encouraged to review the Government of Canada's [travel advisories](#). The site is updated daily and lists the most up-to-date information about risks you might encounter in another country, including information about COVID-19.

Alberta's Chief Medical Officer of Health: Recommendations

- Avoid all cruise ship travel.
- Avoid all travel outside of Canada.

Elk Island Public Schools: Recommendations

For those who choose to travel out-of-country, before returning to school or work:

- Self-isolate for 14 days after your return—regardless of the country you visited.
- Inform your Supervisor or Principal if:

- you or a family member was in close contact with someone who has a known case of COVID-19;
- you, a family member or close contact is undergoing testing for COVID-19; and
- there is a sick family member in your household with COVID-19, especially if the person was in contact with others at the school or workplace.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

[COVID-19: Guidelines for Principals, Directors and Division Staff](#)

[Travel Recommendations: Spring break](#)

[WHO Frequently Asked Questions](#)

GENERAL ADVICE FOR THE PUBLIC

There is a lot of misinformation circulating on social media about the Coronavirus. Here are the best places to obtain the most accurate and current information:

[Alberta Health](#)

[Public Health Agency of Canada](#)

[Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#)

[World Health Organization](#)

GENERAL SAFETY PROTOCOLS

- EIPS will keep families informed about COVID-19 and any school outbreaks through the Division website and SchoolMessenger.
- Talk to your child about the importance of handwashing, covering cough and sneezes with a tissue or the crook of the arm, and not touching hands to their face.
- School staff are screening for flu-like symptoms. Keep ill children at home. The school will separate students that come to school experiencing acute respiratory symptoms, such as a cough or shortness of breath.
- Students with underlying medical conditions may be at higher risk. Talk to your Principal if you have a vulnerable child that may be at higher risk for COVID-19 health complications.
- Inform your Principal of any out-of-province and out-of-country travel plans.
- Be aware of cyber risks related to COVID-19, including not becoming a victim of COVID-19 phishing email attacks.