

Providence Christian School

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March 15, 2020

Update #4 on COVID 19 and its impact on school operations.

Dear parents,

At a press conference this afternoon the premier and minister of education announced that **K-12 classes have been canceled indefinitely and ECS programs have been closed indefinitely** as of this afternoon by the Government of Alberta, based on the recommendation of the Chief Health Officer, Dr. Deena Henshaw.

Key information provided at the Chief Medical Officer's update today:

- **Student attendance at K to 12 schools is prohibited and in-person post-secondary classes are cancelled.**
- All licensed childcare facilities, out-of-school care programs and preschool programs are closed indefinitely.

Additional information regarding the decision to cancel classes:

- Every K-12 student will receive a final mark and students will progress to their next grade level next year. Provincial assessments, such as provincial achievement tests, will be cancelled. At this time, diploma exams essential for post-secondary acceptance will continue. Every student who is eligible to graduate from Grade 12 this year will graduate.
- The Minister's office, Alberta Education, AISCA and the other educational partners will be working together to define next steps, but this may take a few days. It is important that the education system work in parallel to ensure you get timely information as further details are determined.
- We will use the next few days to plan what access to instruction may look like outside of the school context. It is not the expectation that students will have access to online or virtual instruction immediately. We will communicate with you at very regular times to keep you apprised of developments and of a more comprehensive plan that will be developed in the next few days.
- You may expect an email from the teachers of your children sometime tomorrow morning to start that communication and to help your children and you as a family on its way.
- The government's decision is that classes are suspended indefinitely, but schools will remain open. As an independent school we will need to determine the best operating procedures for our staff. It will be our priority to serve your children well and to continue to provide the best quality education possible.
- We will coordinate times for parents to come to school to pick up material, text books etc.

In the meantime, for each of us to do our part in preventing the spread of the virus please keep your children at home.

The most important measure we can take to prevent respiratory illnesses, including COVID-19, is to practise good hygiene.

This includes cleaning hands regularly for at least 20 seconds, avoiding touching your face, coughing or sneezing into your elbow or sleeve, disposing of tissues appropriately, not shaking hands.

We must use zero tolerance practices.

Persons who are not well, who have any symptoms of illness, should stay home and not join gatherings with other people. This even applies to periods of apparent allergic reactions that may temporarily be confused with COVID 19 like symptoms.

"I am recommending that any Albertan who is ill with influenza-like symptoms such as fever or cough stay at home for 14 days after their illness started."

Alberta Medical Health Officer Dr. Deena Hinshaw

Tomorrow and throughout the week the staff will be at school to collaborate and work on plans to continue to offer a quality educational program. You may expect an email from the teachers of your children sometime tomorrow morning to start that communication and to help your children and you as a family on its way.

We are preparing the details of on-line program delivery that is appropriate to each of the grade levels. That will take some time so the first week will be one of transition. Please have patience with this process.

Psalm 34.

1 I will bless the Lord at all times: his praise shall continually be in my mouth.

2 My soul shall make her boast in the Lord: the humble shall hear thereof, and be glad.

3 O magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt his name together.

4 I sought the Lord, and he heard me, and delivered me from all my fears.

5 They looked unto him, and were lightened: and their faces were not ashamed.

6 This poor man cried, and the Lord heard him, and saved him out of all his troubles.

7 The angel of the Lord encampeth round about them that fear him, and delivereth them.

8 O taste and see that the Lord is good: blessed is the man that trusteth in him.

9 O fear the Lord, ye his saints: for there is no want to them that fear him.

Mr. H. VanderHoek

Principal

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- To get a clear, five minute explanation of the nature of the COVID 19 virus check out [this video](#) by dr. Peter Lin.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FIQ2y70LgMk&feature=youtu.be>
 - Daily updates from Alberta Health can be found [here](#).
<https://www.alberta.ca/coronavirus-info-for-albertans.aspx#toc-9>
 - For recommendations on protecting yourself and your community, visit [alberta.ca/COVID19](https://www.alberta.ca/COVID19).
 - Anyone who has questions about travel, self-monitoring and self-isolation, please consult [this document](#):
<https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/assets/info/ppih/if-ppih-ncov-2019-public-faq.pdf>
 - Anyone who has health concerns or is experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 should contact Health Link 811 to see if follow up testing is required.