



Update March 18, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians:

We would like to provide you with an update regarding the COVID-19 situation in our division. We are aware of the positive testing in the AHS north zone. We strongly encourage anyone concerned about personal contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 to follow direction from Alberta Health Services

<https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/topics/Page16997.aspx>.

When the Government of Alberta, Alberta Health Services and Alberta Education announced that all K-12 schools in Alberta will be cancelling classes indefinitely, we have been seeking clarification and working on what the next steps will look like for the Northland School Division. On Monday, our division leadership participated in a conference call with Alberta Education where we received a bit more direction on how we are to proceed in the coming weeks. The leadership team has been speaking with jurisdictional leaders throughout the province to discuss options for providing programming to students. Our goal is to create a plan that will offer learning opportunities for our students and will be consistent with other jurisdictions in the province. That being said, there is still a lot we don't know and we ask for your continued patience and understanding while we work our way through all of the details and develop plans to deal with this situation.

We have been receiving a lot of questions from parents and we would like to address some of the more frequently asked questions in this communication. If there are questions we have not addressed, please contact Communications Coordinator Curtis Walty at curtis.walty@nsd61.ca or at 780-219-1870.

Student Belongings

Many parents and students have asked when they can come to school to collect personal items and other things they have at school. Your child's school will share details with you about the procedure to follow once they have been confirmed. If there are items that are needed urgently (medically related, etc.) please contact your child's school to make arrangements.

Programming for Students

We can assure you that every student in every grade will receive a final mark for the classes they were enrolled in before classes were cancelled. As mentioned above, we are working with Alberta Education and other school jurisdictions in the province to determine what continuity of programming for students will look like and what the possible methods of delivery may be. It may take some time to determine how this will work for Northland students. Once we have a plan developed, we will share details with all of our parents and students.

Provincial Assessments

Provincial Achievement Tests for Grade 6 and 9 students have been cancelled. Provincial Diploma Exams are still going ahead at this time. There may be changes made to what students will be required to write them and how they are delivered. Alberta Education is working on clarifying this for school divisions and we will update you on this when information is available.

Grade 12 Students and Graduation

As was mentioned by the Minister of Education, every student who was on track to graduate will graduate. As discussed above, we will have information in the coming days about how we will be delivering content for students so they can meet course requirements and complete graduation requirements.

Services to Students

In a time of need, families can connect with Alberta Health Services for mental health needs. If families are struggling to access services for their children please contact Director of Student Services Stephanie Sutherland at 780-618-4721.

We will provide further updates as they become available. Please take care during these challenging times. If you have any questions or would like further information, please refer to the Northland website www.nsd61.ca or contact Communications Coordinator, Curtis Walty at curtis.walty@nsd61.ca or 780-624-2060 ext: 6183.

Sincerely,



Dr. Nancy Spencer-Poitras
Superintendent of Schools
The Northland School Division