

March 8, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Yesterday, the Fraser Health Authority informed the Surrey School District that an individual, who was in a school as part of a community use rental, has been diagnosed with the novel coronavirus (COVID-19). This letter is to inform parents and staff members of the steps that we are taking to prepare for the week ahead.

Fraser Health has deemed that the risk to the general school community and its members is low. The novel coronavirus is spread between people by droplets, which requires close contact with saliva or mucus from the mouth, nose or throat of an infected person. As such, individuals not in direct contact with the affected individual are at low risk. With this information, out of an abundance of caution, we have:

- Initiated a deep clean protocol in the specific school over the weekend in preparation for classes on Monday;
- Postponed the community use rental group permit until further notice.

As always, Health Canada reminds us that the best way to protect yourself is to wash your hands with soap and warm water for at least 20 seconds and to cover your mouth and nose with your arm when you cough or sneeze and to wash your hands as soon as possible afterwards. To help students comply with this advice, we will reinforce these recommendations on our daily morning announcements and in classrooms around the district.

Further information about novel coronavirus is available on the BC Centre for Disease Control website (www.bccdc.ca/about/news-stories/stories/2020/information-on-novel-coronavirus). In addition, Fraser Health has developed a webpage answering common questions about novel coronavirus available at fraserhealth.ca/coronavirus

If we receive any additional information, we will be in contact with parents and staff. Thank you for your patience as we work through this together as a community and in close collaboration with our Health Authorities.

Sincerely,

Jordan Tinney
Superintendent of Schools

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