



March 17, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Re: COVID-19

Today, the Provincial Health Officer declared a Public Health Emergency in British Columbia.

Also, this afternoon, under the direction of the Provincial Health Officer, the Minister of Education directed all schools to immediately suspend in-class instruction until further notice. The Minister stated, "while classroom lessons are suspended it is expected that schools will implement a variety of measures to ensure continued learning for students".

Please reference attached: March 17th, 2020 Letter from Education Minister Rob Fleming. The letter has important details regarding continuity of services, final marks and graduation assessments.

In response to the Provincial Health Officer and Education Minister Fleming's direction, please be assured that Central Okanagan Public Schools is currently planning for the continuity of education. Further details will be provided once the plan has been fully developed. The plan will be provided to the community after further consultation/discussions with the Ministry of Education, the Central Okanagan Teachers' Association (COTA), the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE 3523), the Central Okanagan Parent Advisory Council (COPAC), and the Central Okanagan Principals and Vice-Principals' Association (COPVPA) in the coming weeks.

Finally, Minister Fleming encouraged parents to continue to talk with their children, ensuring students that "these measures are designed to best protect them and to protect the people most vulnerable to COVID-19". Parents are also requested to make arrangements for necessary childcare during this period of time.

The School District will continue to publish all COVID-19 updates to the district website at: www.sd23.bc.ca.

Thank-you for your patience and support during this unprecedented time. We all need to work together.

Sincerely,

Kevin Kaardal
Superintendent of Schools/CEO

Attachment – March 17, 2020 Letter from Education Minister Rob Fleming