

March 12, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Before we head into Spring Break I wanted to take a moment to wish all our students, families, and staff well. With the recent declaration by W.H.O. of a global pandemic, we know that the COVID-19 outbreak is on people's minds. We also know this topic has a local context with confirmed cases on the North Shore at the Lynn Valley Care Centre and the recent closure of Collingwood School. Given this evolving situation, we wanted to send an update to parents and staff on the current situation, including how it may impact the many families who are looking forward to travelling during our spring break.

Travel

Understandably, there is a good deal of concern with respect to international travel, including international field trips and personal vacations. West Vancouver Schools has suspended all international student travel effective immediately.

Regarding out-of-province travel, public health officials are advising the public to reference [Government of Canada travel health notices](#) to inform decision making regarding upcoming travel. We are asking our families and staff to check the advisories before you return home to see if anything has changed that would affect your arrival in Canada. Vancouver Coastal Health is recommending that travelers returning from Iran, China and Italy self-quarantine for 14 days. Please note these impacted areas may change and expand as the situation continues to evolve. Situations are changing quickly in some regions, so please check the Government of Canada travel advisory site frequently for updates.

Health

Our efforts to assist in the reduction of the transmission of COVID-19 with increased cleaning and disinfecting of high-touch surfaces will continue over spring break. We will also continue to work closely and take direction from our provincial health experts at the Ministry of Health and Vancouver Coastal Health to ensure the continued safety and well-being of students and staff. For more information on COVID-19, including ways to reduce your risk of infection, please refer to the following resources:

- **Novel Coronavirus Q&A from HealthLinkBC:** <https://www.healthlinkbc.ca/health-feature/coronavirus-covid-19>
- **BC Centre for Disease Control:** [http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/coronavirus-\(novel\)](http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/coronavirus-(novel))
- **Government of Canada Travel Health Notices:** <https://travel.gc.ca/travelling/advisories>

All of our bulletins around COVID-19 are available on our website at: <https://westvancouver.schools.ca/news/coronavirus-update>

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact your school directly.

Best wishes,

Chris Kennedy

Superintendent of Schools