



Dear Parents/Guardians,

As you are aware, the COVID-19 outbreak has continued to impact countries around the world with a rising number of confirmed cases. Given this evolving situation, we wanted to send an update to parents and staff on the current situation, including how it could potentially impact the many families who are looking forward to travelling this spring break.

Understandably, there is a good deal of concern with respect to international travel, including international field trips and personal vacations. 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. Situations are changing quickly in some regions, so please check the Government of Canada travel advisory site frequently for updates.

With respect to international field trips, after careful consideration we have cancelled a school trip to France due to the possible risk for students and staff travelling in the region. We are aware that there is an updated warning to avoid non-essential travel to Iran, Northern Italy and some areas in South Korea. We are also aware of school closures in Japan, as well as restrictions on public gatherings in France. We are also very concerned about the situation just next door in Washington state where King County has been declared to be in a state of emergency.

We are also asking parents and staff who are travelling overseas for personal travel to please consider issues such as needing to be quarantined upon returning to 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.

We will 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. We continue to monitor all field trips, if there are trip cancellations by the district, we will work directly with those schools. 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.

Sincerely

Chris Kennedy
Superintendent of Schools