



Education (E-1)
PO Box 2703, Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 2C6

March 9, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

RE: International school trips cancelled

This notice is to inform you that the Government of Yukon is cancelling international school trips at the recommendation of Yukon's Acting Chief Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Catherine Elliott. This decision is a precautionary measure due to concerns over the spread of COVID-19.

Students and parents should work directly with their schools to determine any next steps.

At this time, this cancellation **does not** include trips to Alaska. We are currently reviewing all school trips to Alaska with Dr. Elliott and will determine whether or not they will go ahead on a case-by-case basis. In the coming days, we will provide an update to those schools who have trips to Alaska planned.

Planned trips within Canada will continue, however, the situation is changing rapidly and students and parents are encouraged to check in with their school for updates leading up to any trips within Canada.

The health and safety of students, school staff and trip volunteers is our first priority. We recognize the significant efforts of students, parents/guardians, school staff and trip volunteers to plan for international school trips. We understand the inconvenience trip cancellations may cause and we thank you for your understanding. We are also thankful for the work of Dr. Elliott and her consideration for the safety of students, school staff and trip volunteers.

There are currently no cases of COVID-19 in Yukon and the risk remains low. However, other regions are experiencing unexpected community spread of the virus. Although there are no cases of COVID-19 in Yukon, there are cases of influenza and other respiratory viruses.

Symptoms of COVID-19 include:

- Fever
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing

The following everyday practices for you and your child can help prevent the spread of respiratory viruses, including COVID-19:

- wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds;
- use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol if soap and water are not available;
- avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands;
- avoid close contact with people who are sick;
- clean and disinfect objects and surfaces that are touched a lot;
- when you cough or sneeze:
 - cover your mouth and nose with a tissue, then throw the tissue immediately into the trash; or
 - cover your mouth and nose with your inner elbow; and
- Keep your child home when they are sick.

In Yukon, health care providers are keeping up to date on COVID-19. They know how to recognize the virus in a person who may be infected and how to best care for them. The Yukon Chief Medical Officer of Health and Yukon Communicable Disease Control are closely following this virus. They are working with their counterparts across the country and leading all preparations to protect Yukoners.

This information is accurate as of March 9, 2020. As the situation can change quickly, for the most up-to-date information on COVID-19, visit the Government of Yukon's *Information about Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19)* at yukon.ca/en/information-about-novel-coronavirus-yukoners and the Yukon Chief Medical Officer of Health's updates at www.yukoncmoh.ca.

For more information and/or questions, please contact your school directly.

Sincerely,



David Wipf
A/ADM, Schools and Student Services
Department of Education