

March 12, 2020

Dear TDSB Community,

We wanted to provide you with the most recent update from Toronto Public Health with regards to the coronavirus (COVID-19). Attached, you will find a letter from Toronto's Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Eileen de Villa, with important information for parents/guardians, students and staff, including new developments, advice on March Break travel, links to resources and more.

Understandably, our schools and offices are receiving a number of questions about the coronavirus. The Toronto District School Board takes its lead from Toronto Public Health and other public health agencies, which are not recommending any further precautions be taken at this time — outside of those measures outlined in the attached letter. However, TDSB caretaking staff are already conducting enhanced cleaning of high touch surfaces (e.g. handrails, door knobs, push plates, etc.) around all schools and sites and will focus on the disinfection of all schools and sites over the March Break.

The Board has also taken steps to ensure that our supply of hand soap and other cleaning supplies are available to schools and sites. Caretaking staff are also being asked to frequently check supplies in washrooms each day. Staff and students are asked to notify the office if supplies in washrooms are low or have run out. While washing hands with soap and water is the most effective way of stopping the spread of germs, all TDSB schools also have access to hand sanitizer, however given the current global demand, there is not an endless supply. Additional signage with regards to handwashing techniques and cough etiquette have also been provided to all schools. For students who take school buses, our school bus operators have also increased their frequency of disinfection of vehicles.

The TDSB, through its Pandemic Response Team, is continuing to work with public health agencies to review all contingencies should we need to make any adjustments. The Team is currently coordinating a number of responses including infection control measures, supplies, keeping school communities and staff informed, procurement and continuity of essential services.

Moving forward, we will continue to keep you updated as we learn more about this developing situation and should any additional precautions be required, we will let you know as soon as possible.

Thank you