



March 04, 2020

Dear Parents / Caregivers:

As the spread of the new COVID 19 virus in countries around the world continues to make news, you may be wondering about how we are working to prevent and mitigate the spread of illness in our schools, and how we are preparing for the potential arrival of the virus in Waterloo Region.

As a school system we understand that the emergence of COVID 19 is concerning and we want to reassure you that, as always, the health and well being of our students and staff is our top priority. We are in close and regular contact with public health experts from Region of Waterloo Public Health & Emergency Services to ensure we have all the most up-to-date, factual information available concerning COVID 19. Similarly, we work in partnership with the Ministry of Education and Ministry of Health, as well as other educational partners in the exchange of information.

There are currently no known cases of COVID 19 in Waterloo Region and Region of Waterloo Public Health continues to work closely with local hospitals, health care and community partners, the Ministry of Health, Public Health Ontario and national partners to monitor and respond accordingly to the COVID-19 situation.

At this time, Public Health advises the following steps be followed by residents of Waterloo Region:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash and/or cough or sneeze into the crook of your arm, not into your hands.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.
- Avoid misinformation. Region of Waterloo Public Health continues to provide up-to-date and evidence-based information on their website so that you have the information you need to make informed decisions about your health: regionofwaterloo.ca/2019NovelCoronavirus

We are following all of the above guidelines with our own staff and we hope you will join us in promoting these strong habits with your own children. We will keep you informed as new information becomes available or if the situation regarding COVID 19 changes in Waterloo Region.

We are confident that if we follow the sound advice and practices that have been advocated, that we will be as prepared as we can be and that our schools will remain safe and healthy places to learn and grow.

Sincerely,

Loretta Notten
Director of Education

