



York Catholic District School Board

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Office of the Director of Education Ab Falconi

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Dear Parents and Guardians,

An update from Ontario's Chief Medical Officer of Health, Dr. David Williams, regarding the novel coronavirus is attached.

We know that many of you have questions and concerns and I want to assure you that the **health and safety of students and staff is a top priority** for everyone at the York Catholic District School Board (YCDSB). We continue to work closely with our partners at York Region Public Health (YRPH) and the Ontario Ministry of Health to monitor and respond.

Here are some highlights from the Chief Medical Officer of Health's letter:

- Human coronaviruses are common throughout the world and can cause a range of illnesses from the common cold to severe respiratory illness in some people
- The precautions to protect yourself against common respiratory ailments like the flu, can also be used to help protect against coronaviruses
- Members of the public are advised to take the usual measures to reduce the risk of transmission of the flu and respiratory illness, which include:
 - get a yearly influenza (flu) vaccination
 - wash your hands frequently and thoroughly with soap and water or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer
 - cover your mouth and nose when you cough or sneeze
 - if you don't have a tissue, sneeze or cough into your sleeve or arm
 - if you or your family members are ill, stay home

At this time, the Ontario Chief Medical Officer of Health and York Region Public Health have advised that **additional protocols at schools are not necessary** and that risk to Ontarians remains low.

Public health agencies are not recommending the wearing of medical masks. Doing so heightens anxiety and may, in fact, increase the risk of infection in your child.

As a school board, we would ask that you please do not send your child to school with medical masks. If your child is ill, please keep them home.

We are taking news of novel coronavirus very seriously. We will continue to work with our public health partners and will take all necessary precautions and to provide updates as they become available.

If you have questions or concerns about your health, please contact York Region Public Health or your healthcare practitioner.

For up to date information, please visit www.york.ca/coronavirus, www.ontario.ca/coronavirus or www.canada.ca/coronavirus.

Sincerely,



Ab Falconi
Director of Education

Encl. Update from Ontario Chief Medical Officer of Health