

# Huron-Superior Catholic District School Board



Lindsay Liske  
Chairperson

Rose Burton Spohn  
Director of Education

March 11, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians:

As you may be aware, this afternoon, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared the coronavirus (COVID-19) a pandemic. You may also be aware that, today, Sudbury confirmed its first case of COVID-19 and that Laurentian University has taken the precautionary measure of suspending all in-person classes and activities until further notice.

The latest information that we have from the World Health Organization indicates that the immediate risk of being exposed to the virus that causes COVID-19 is thought to be low for most people. Having a confirmed case close to our board's jurisdiction is concerning, but it is not unexpected. Please be aware that, at this time, to the best of our knowledge, the virus is not circulating within our board's jurisdiction.

However, this is a rapidly changing situation and we are advising all families to monitor the following websites for the most up-to-date information:

- <https://www.ontario.ca/page/2019-novel-coronavirus>
- <http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/common/system/services/phu/locations.aspx>
- <https://travel.gc.ca/travelling/health-safety/travel-health-notice>
- <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection/health-professionals/guidance-schools-childcare-programs.html>

Please be assured that the Huron-Superior Catholic District School Board remains committed to ensuring the health and safety of all students, employees, volunteers, and visitors to its schools. We have been monitoring and will continue to monitor the situation. We are also committed to working closely with all our local health units to ensure the health and safety of everyone in our care.

In addition to our standard operating procedures related to cleaning, we have taken the following additional precautionary measures:

- **Additional Disinfection** – Since February 4, 2020, at the board's direction, all caretakers increased their disinfection of high-touch surfaces in all schools and board buildings (e.g., door knobs, ledges, desktops, countertops, water fountains, computer areas, bookshelves).
- **Employee Training / Information** – On both November 1, 2019 and January 27, 2020, all board employees received safety releases on general health / universal precautions and pandemic planning. On January 27, 2020, employees also received information about COVID-19 from the Ministry of Health.

**Catholic Education Centre**

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On March 4, 2020, all board employees received a link to a video from the CBC regarding COVID-19, which employees were encouraged to share with students, families, and colleagues. This same video, which emphasizes the importance of proper handwashing techniques and not touching one's face, was also placed on our board website and shared through our social media accounts.

On March 5, 2020, all school administrators received the suggested precautions for preventing infection from COVID-19 during liturgies from Bishop Marcel Damphousse. These precautions include, but are not limited to, not shaking hands during the Sign of Peace, not drinking from the cup, and not having holy water at liturgies.

- **Hygiene and Cleaning Products** – Our board continues to have on hand a stock of all hygiene and cleaning products, including soap, hand sanitizer, toilet tissue, paper towels, cleaners, and disinfectants.

As the March Break approaches, we encourage everyone to remain informed through the websites mentioned above regarding travel advisories, self-isolation, and self-monitoring of symptoms of COVID-19.

The board will continue to pray for everyone's safety as we navigate through these challenging times. Rest assured that the board will continue to provide updates to our students, employees, parents / guardians, and families through our social media accounts and our board website at [www.hscdsb.on.ca](http://www.hscdsb.on.ca).

God bless,



Rose Burton Spohn  
Director of Education