

March 10, 2020

To: Parents / Guardians of BRSD students

Re: Extra health precautions being implemented

Hello everyone.

In light of the evolving COVID-19 situation, we want to let you know that BRSD will be implementing some extra health precautions in our schools.

We recognize that the risk of Coronavirus infection is relatively low here in Alberta and we know that most of the people who do contract the virus have relatively mild symptoms. However, for those who are medically fragile or have compromised immune systems (which includes students and staff at each and every BRSD school and worksite) the virus can have serious consequences. These precautionary steps are an attempt to help ensure we all stay well.

Two things are happening right away:

- **covering the drinking fountains.** Over the next day, staff from Facilities will be visiting all BRSD schools, to cover the drinking fountains. Water bottle filling stations will remain available. Please send a labelled water bottle to school with your child.
- **changing the type of cleaning products** custodial staff are using, to ensure there is a higher level of disinfectant being used on surfaces in schools.

As always, parents are asked to keep children home if they aren't feeling well. If your child begins to exhibit signs of illness while they are at school, we will keep the child separate from classmates until you are able to pick them up.

Dr. Deena Hinshaw, Alberta's Chief Medical Officer of Health, reminds us all that the best ways to stay well are:

- wash your hands regularly;
- cough or sneeze into your elbow or sleeve;
- stay home if you are not feeling well.

If your family is planning to travel, you are encouraged to check the Government of Canada website for travel advisories before you leave (<https://travel.gc.ca/travelling/advisories>).

When you return from travel, or if you are concerned your family has been exposed to illness, you may want to stay at home for a period of time. Students who are absent from school will be supported by their teachers to receive assignments, so they can continue their learning.

This is an unusual situation and we are trying to be proactive to help ensure everyone stays healthy and well. Thank you for your support. If you have questions, please contact your school Principal.

Rita Marler, Superintendent of Schools