

Department of Education and Early Childhood Development
Educational Services Division
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Date: March 6, 2020
To: Parents, Guardians
From: Dominic Cardy, Minister
Subject: COVID - 19

As an additional precautionary measure, the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development will require all children, students, staff, volunteers and family members of those individuals who have travelled to the following countries or regions to avoid any public school, early learning facilities, or school district offices for fourteen days from their date of their return to New Brunswick, beginning Saturday, March 7, 2020.

Those countries or regions are those at a Level 2 or 3 risk level, as assessed by the Government of Canada. As of March 6, 2020, the following countries or region are included:

- China
- Iran
- Japan
- Northern Italy
- South Korea
- Hong Kong
- Singapore

As an increased level of precaution, those who have travelled within any part of Italy will be required to follow the same directive for the countries listed above.

This list will be updated as countries are added or removed from the Government of Canada Travel Advisory page (<https://travel.gc.ca/travelling/health-safety/travel-health-notice>). Additional geographic restrictions may be added by the department as the situation progresses. This will remain in effect until June 30, 2020, but may be cancelled early if there are no countries listed as Covid-19 risks on the relevant page, or at the discretion of the Minister.

Additional information concerning thresholds required to cause schools or early learning centres to close, and to arrange for out-of-school learning for students in such situations, and other potential impacts of COVID-19, will be shared in the coming days. This would include early learning facilities as well. Parents should be prepared to find alternate child care options.

We ask that those who are excluded follow the Public Health Agency of Canada advice:

- Monitor your health for fever, cough and difficulty breathing;
- Avoid places you cannot easily separate yourself from others if you become ill;
- To further protect those around you, wash your hands often and cover your mouth and nose with your arm when coughing or sneezing.

These additional measures are being taken by the department to address anxiety in our schools, early learning facilities and communities, increase the safety of staff, children and students, and to ensure that we have taken all necessary means to respond to the current situation. Today, with no cases reported, there is no reason to close our schools and childcare centres but every reason to begin to take these precautions.

If you start having symptoms of COVID-19, isolate yourself from others as quickly as possible. Immediately call a health care professional or TeleCare 811. Describe your symptoms and travel history. They will provide advice on what you should do.

The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development will field questions around school policy, but all other questions concerning COVID-19 should be directed to the Chief Medical Officer of Health.

For more information on COVID-19, please visit canada.ca/coronavirus or call 1 833 784-4397 or www.gnb.ca/coronavirus.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dominic Cardy". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Dominic Cardy
Minister