



A Message from the Head of School

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As we approach the middle of our two-week Spring Break, I wanted to provide you with another update regarding COVID-19.

The Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) has issued *Public Health Guidance for Schools (K-12) and Childcare Programs on COVID-19*. Since there is currently no widespread transmission of the disease in Canada, the PHAC continues to recommend that schools take standard respiratory illness precautions - the same precautions that are recommended every year during cold and flu season. The document provides additional details on what schools and childcare centers can do to respond to the current situation. Albert College has implemented all of their guidelines.

The following messages have been reinforced with students at school and we ask that you continue to reinforce these preventative measures at home:

- wash their hands thoroughly with soap and water, or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if available;
- cover their mouth and nose when they cough or sneeze with a tissue or their elbow/sleeve (and then wash/sanitize their hands); and,
- avoid sharing food and other personal items such as water bottles and school supplies.

As you will recall, we gathered Spring Break travel plans from our families. None of our families have reported travel to areas designated by PHAC with a Level 2 or Level 3 Travel Health Notice, including: China, Iran, Italy, Japan, and South Korea. As we are now dealing with a global pandemic, however, we do ask that all families remain vigilant, regardless of where they travel this March. If you or your children are traveling outside Canada, it is important to monitor your health when you return. While abroad, you may come in contact with COVID-19. Hastings Prince Edward Public Health asks that you monitor your health for fever, cough, and difficulty breathing for 14 days after you arrive in Canada. If you or your child have these symptoms, call public health ([613-966-5500](tel:613-966-5500)) to inform them. They will provide advice on what you should do. As you know, classes resume on [March 23](#), 2020. **If students are experiencing a fever or flu-like symptoms, they should refrain from coming to campus.**

Please let us know immediately if a member of your household is:

- being tested;
- is self-isolating; or
- has been told by public health to self-quarantine due to possible exposure.

Hastings Prince Edward Public Health continues to advise that the risk to residents in Hastings Prince Edward region remains low. As of [March 11](#), 2020 there is one known case in our region (an individual at Canadian Forces Base Trenton has tested positive for COVID-19, having arrived [March 9](#) aboard the flight of Canadians repatriated from the *Grand Princess* cruise ship off California). According to Hastings Prince Edward Public Health, the risk of person-to-person spread in our region is still low.

The health and safety of students and staff remains a top priority for everyone at Albert College. We continue to work closely with our partners at Hastings Prince Edward Public Health, the Ontario Ministry of Health, and the Public Health Agency of Canada to monitor and respond.

Sincerely,

Mark Musca
Head of School