

COVID-19 Frequently Asked Questions (March 13, 2020)

1. Is there going to be an extended spring break or school closures due to COVID-19?

Decisions about school closures are made by public health officials in cooperation with school districts and the Ministry of Education. The Provincial Health Officer has advised that closing schools (including extending Spring Break) is not appropriate or advised at this time.

This is a rapidly evolving situation and every day new suggestions for containment and prevention are being circulated by the provincial government and Fraser Health. We will continue to work with public health officials during Spring Break who are monitoring the pandemic and B.C.'s response to it.

We will post all new information to our website and encourage you to check it regularly for updates. <https://www.deltasd.bc.ca/news-events/news/information-for-parents-guardians-novel-coronavirus/>

2. What is Delta School District's advice to staff and students around travel?

On March 12, the Province and BC's Public Health Officer announced new travel measures which are effective immediately (no non-essential travel including to the US and self-isolation for 14 days for those who choose to travel).

The safety of our students and staff is our top priority. Consistent with the provincial government's March 12 announcement, the Delta School District is introducing the following temporary COVID-19 travel measures, effective immediately:

- All Delta School District-related travel outside of Canada, including to the U.S. will be cancelled or suspended until these restrictions are lifted.
- Also, effective immediately any Delta School District faculty or staff member or student who chooses to travel outside of Canada for personal reasons **will be required to self-isolate for 14 days** before returning to school or work. The BC Centre for Disease Control has **clear instructions** for self-isolation, which means you need to stay at home and avoid contact with others. This is also consistent with provincial recommendations and requirements to keep staff, students and the local community safe.

The BC Ministry of Health advises that Quarantine officers are supporting the Canadian Border Services Agency's screening conducted at land entries and airports.

We thank our staff and students for their understanding and cooperation. We trust they receive the information in the spirit with which it is intended, which is to keep everyone in our community safe and well informed as we play our part in helping to 'flatten the curve' of the COVID-19 pandemic.

3. What will happen to staff or students who choose to travel internationally then ignore the self-isolation recommendation and return to work/school?

They will be directed to return home until they have completed the 14-day self-isolation period.

4. Where can I get more information?

This is a rapidly changing global situation, and as such, we need to be prepared for the possibility that between now and the end of spring break there likely will be more changes to the situation.

We will continue to use information from the Provincial Health Officer and Fraser Health to inform our recommendations. All updates will be posted to the Delta School District website: <https://www.deltasd.bc.ca/news-events/news/information-for-parents-guardians-novel-coronavirus/>

We appreciate your understanding and cooperation. We also hope you appreciate the information in the spirit with which it is intended, which is to keep everyone in our community safe and well informed as we grapple with the COVID-19 pandemic.

5. What measures is the Delta School District taking to help prevent the spread of infection?

We are currently taking the following measures:

- Stepping up cleaning efforts in school including special attention to high touch surfaces and increasing the concentration in cleaning products
- Ensuring that soap dispensers are kept well-stocked
- Limiting assemblies and meetings with larger numbers of students
- Encouraging students and staff to stay home when they are sick
- Educating students about proper hygiene and coughing/sneezing etiquette
- Installing hand sanitizer stations at the main entrance of all schools over the Spring Break.

Further measures will be applied if and when needed.