

January 29, 2020

Dear Families,

The B.C. Provincial Health Officer, Dr. Bonnie Henry, announced on January 28 that the first case of novel coronavirus has been confirmed in B.C. Further details from the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Education are available [here](#).

We understand our students and staff may have questions about how Delta School District is responding.

We can assure you that Delta School District is in regular communication with the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health and Fraser Health to make public health decisions, and to ensure its students and employees are kept informed and safe. We will continue to be in close contact with Fraser Health medical health officers and, with that in mind, would ask that you do not make assumptions about the risk of students or staff based on their ethnicity or travel history.

Inaccurate news regarding coronavirus is starting to circulate on social media. We would encourage students, staff and their families to refer to official sources such as the BC Centre for Disease Control for the latest information and updates: <http://www.bccdc.ca/>

### **Reducing the risk**

The BC Centre for Disease Control recommends that to reduce the risk of exposure to novel coronavirus, employ the same measures that are taken in relation to colds and flu:

- Wash your hands frequently for at least 20 seconds using soap and hot water (it is the single most effective way of reducing infection spread).
- Practice other good hygiene habits: do not touch your face/eyes/mouth with your hands, and cover your mouth and nose when you sneeze or cough (ideally with a disposable tissue or the crease of your elbow).
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched workspace surfaces.
- Maintain good general health (eat a balanced diet, get enough sleep, exercise in moderation).
- Stay home if you are sick.
- A new toll-free phone number (1-833-784-4397) has been established to answer questions from Canadians about the 2019 novel coronavirus. Service is available from 8 a.m. to 11 p.m. Eastern Standard Time until January 29 and from 7 a.m. to midnight starting January 30.

Further information about novel coronavirus is available on the [BC Centre for Disease Control website](#).

Delta School District