



St. Michael's School
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January 28, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Recognizing the safety and health of all members of our school community is a primary concern, and updates and accurate information on potential threats, such as the **Novel Coronavirus** first identified in Wuhan, China, are extremely important.

Our school takes its directives from Fraser Health which, along with other health authorities, is closely monitoring the evolving situation. Public Health officials are working together to ensure that any unusual illness in arriving travelers is being appropriately screened. Physicians have also been requested to notify Public Health of any illness of concern in patients, especially those who were recently in the Wuhan area.

In Fraser Health's latest communique to us on Friday, January 24th, it states that the risk to the general public, including school-age children, is very low. Medical Health Offices are continuing to monitor the situation closely and will provide further advice and information as it becomes available.

At this time, reports indicate that, similar to influenza, this virus is spread when a sick person coughs or sneezes. Many of the reported cases are only showing mild symptoms and are well enough to stay home. As with influenza, elderly people and those with underlying health conditions are more likely to develop severe disease and require hospitalization.

In the meantime, we are asked to remind everyone to follow proper hygiene etiquette during the cold and flu season. This includes:

- proper hand-washing with soap and water;
- covering your mouth and nose with a tissue when coughing; and
- staying home when you are sick.

For more information, you may also visit the BC Centre for Disease Control's site for up to date information: <http://www.bccdc.ca/about/news-stories/stories/2020/information-on-novel-coronavirus>.

If you have concerns regarding travelling, you may wish to access the Public Health Agency of Canada's website: <https://travel.gc.ca/travelling/advisories/pneumonia-china>.

In summary, the prevention of communicable disease is under the purview of our local Health Authority, and St. Michael's School will implement measures as requested by Fraser Health.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Corina Meisl
Acting Principal