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March 16, 2020

Dear Sunrise Community,

As a follow-up to the information shared in our letter to you on Friday, March 13th, this new update provides information to answer as many emerging questions as possible. You may see some information repeated as we are doing our best to ensure a common message wherever possible. As this experience is new territory for all of us, and because the information changes so rapidly, we will make every effort to keep you informed in the coming weeks, but also ask for your help in checking information about COVID-19 from reliable sources such as:

<https://www.who.int/>

<https://www.gov.mb.ca/health/publichealth/factsheets/coronavirus.pdf>

<https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection.html>

The Manitoba government has also created a link specific to our province and can be found at:

<http://www.manitoba.ca/covid19/>

At a Press Conference, Friday afternoon, the province announced the following:

*In keeping with social distancing strategies outlined to Manitobans and in consultation with key stakeholders, public health officials have advised suspending classes in Manitoba K-12 schools effective March 23 to April 10. This is being done to help reduce the spread of COVID-19 in Manitoba.*

*This will allow time for families, educators and school divisions to plan for alternative arrangements while the number of presumptive and confirmed cases remains low. Suspending in-class learning is a proactive response to slow the spread of COVID-19 and to prepare schools to the greatest extent possible. Planning is underway for schools to provide as much continuity as possible in the education of students by preparing materials and exploring tools to deliver education remotely.*

Sunrise School Division has regular classes for students this week from March 16<sup>th</sup> to March 19<sup>th</sup>. This coming Friday, March 20<sup>th</sup> will remain an Administrative Day even though parent-teacher conferences have been cancelled for all Sunrise schools. Students will not attend on March 20<sup>th</sup>.

Your child's school will also be working hard this week to develop a plan for learning to continue between March 23<sup>rd</sup> and April 10<sup>th</sup>. You will receive communication directly from school administrators and classroom teachers regarding the learning expectations for the days when students are not attending classes at school. Staff will be at school during the work day to answer questions, clarify assignments, or assist with comprehension as needed.



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School divisions are still being asked to share the following proactive and preventative strategies with all people in our school communities:

- practice social distancing where possible, which means maintaining at least 2 metres distance from others, limiting close proximity to less than 10 minutes, and avoiding physical contact like hand shaking
- practice more frequent and adequate hygiene practices, which means increased hand washing, minimizing the touching of one's own face, and wiping down surfaces used by many people
- stay home if you are sick, and contact Health Links-Info Santé at 1-204-788-8200 or toll free at 1-888-315-9257 if you are symptomatic. Public Health officials are also advising educational institutions to ensure ill staff and students stay home from school.

We do expect anyone exhibiting signs or feeling flu-like symptoms to stay home from school until healthy enough to attend. We also request that staff and families self-report illnesses to the school. Schools will be closely monitoring staff and students for signs of illness and will be sending them home should any concerning symptoms be observed.

As of March 15, 2020, all Manitobans are strongly advised to cancel or postpone any non-essential international travel, and public health officials are recommending all international travelers should self-isolate and self-monitor for symptoms for 14 days after returning to Canada. As such, we are asking any students and staff who have returned from international travel to stay home for the 14-day period.

As always, parents and guardians have the right to keep their child at home if they feel that is the best option for their child or children's safety. We would ask your cooperation with informing the school of this choice, as well as your child's bus driver if they are transported to school by bus.

The school division will still be implementing the following measures beginning Monday, March 16, 2020 and until further notice:

- cancelling all field trips
- cancelling all non-essential meetings, gatherings, assemblies, presentations, and other large group events including upcoming parent/teacher and student-led conferences
- cancelling staff attendance at professional development sessions
- cancelling extra-curricular activities
- cancelling the community use of school or divisional space
- cancelling "before and after" school programs



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The province has indicated that daycares operating within schools will be allowed to remain open during the period of time that classes for students are cancelled. The division is cancelling “before and after school” programs so that enhanced and efficient cleaning procedures can be completed at each school site.

Sunrise School Division will be creating a *Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)* page that will be posted and updated on the divisional main page at [www.sunrisesd.ca](http://www.sunrisesd.ca). We hope this will help each person benefit from the questions asked and answers provided to individuals thus far.

Please share this information with others in your network.

Please don't hesitate to call if you have questions or wish to clarify any of the above information.

Thank you for your ongoing patience and support in this evolving and challenging situation.

Sincerely,

Cathy Tymko  
Superintendent/CEO

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