



NORTHERN LIGHTS SCHOOL DIVISION No. 113

Bag Service #6500

La Ronge, Saskatchewan

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March 15, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As you know the health and wellness of our students and staff is the top priority in Northern Lights School Division #113. The last week has been challenging for all involved as we navigate the emergence and rapid growth of the COVID-19 pandemic.

NLSD#113 is committed to sharing updates about COVID-19 and what we are doing in our schools whenever there is new information to share. We have been monitoring what has been happening in Saskatchewan and reviewing the information and updates provided by Saskatchewan Health.

I am aware that many of you have concerns regarding whether or not schools should be open during this rapidly evolving time. NLSD#113 does not have the authority to close schools and is taking direction on this matter from the Provincial Health Officers. The Saskatchewan Chief Medical Officer is directing schools to stay open. The decision to leave schools open is one that is being re-examined on a daily basis by the Chief Medical Officers and if NLSD#113 receives direction to close schools we will commit to communicating with you immediately.

Students and Staff returning from travel outside the country - including the United States - effective March 15, 2020:

- All individuals falling into the above category **must** self-isolate for 14 days.
- All individuals arriving home prior to March 14 **must** self-monitor for 14 days from the date they returned.

Students and Staff returning from travel within Canada effective March 15, 2020:

- All individuals falling into the above category **should** self-monitor and consider self-isolation for 14 days.

Who meets the COVID-19 exposure criteria?

- Traveled to an [affected area](#).
- **or**
- Had close contact with a confirmed or probable case of COVID-19.
- **or**
- Had close contact with a person with acute respiratory illness who has been to an [affected area](#) within 14 days prior to their illness onset
- **or**
- Had laboratory exposure to biological material (e.g. primary clinical specimens, virus culture isolates) known to contain COVID-19.

Source - <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection/health-professionals/national-case-definition.html#exposure>

NLSD#113 is also implementing enhanced cleaning and hygiene practices in our schools. On Monday schools will have enhanced cleaning with high touchpoint areas and hard surfaces being disinfected and cleaned multiple times each day. Schools will also be incorporating information about handwashing into their daily announcements and posters will be placed in the vicinity of each washroom and sink.

Coronavirus/COVID-19 is an emerging, rapidly evolving situation. We will share latest updates through a variety of means including on our website - www.nlsd113.ca, Facebook - [NLSD113](#) and Twitter - [@nlsd113](#).

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Jason Young
Director of Education