

COVID-19 Update

(coronavirus)



**Avon Maitland
District School Board**
Engage, Inspire, Innovate... Always Learning

March 13, 2020 | **ISSUE NO. 4**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Information for Families

Dear AMDSB Families,

As indicated yesterday, the Provincial Government issued a Ministerial Order to close all publicly funded schools in Ontario from March 14 to April 5, 2020, in response to the emergence of COVID-19 in Ontario. The sole purpose of this shutdown is to limit the spread of COVID-19 in the general population. Based on this decision, we highly recommend that families exercise “social distancing” practices to help support limiting the spread of this virus into our communities.

We understand there are many questions regarding this provincial order and the resulting school closures. Please see the information below regarding the impact on AMDSB schools and we will continue to provide updates to our school communities at amdsb.ca.

In addition to schools being closed, the following are cancelled for the period of March 14 to April 5, 2020:

- Community Use of Schools, including programs (camps, etc.) scheduled to run in our schools over March Break, and all evening permits.
- Before and After School Programs.
- Child Care Centres that operate in our schools or on school property.
- The Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT) scheduled for March 31, 2020. If an alternative date is announced, we will inform families.
- The provincial government will continue to assess the impact on EQAO testing in Grades 3, 6 and 9.
- All Continuing Education and Employment services provided by our Centre for Employment and Learning offices. Any on-line courses (e.g. Learning Hub) will continue as usual.
- Secondary school co-op placements.
- Dual Credit programs are uncertain at this time as we are unsure as to the status of our community college programs. Staff will communicate directly with Dual Credit students as this decision evolves.
- COPE, Riverside and all off-site programs.
- All elementary and secondary field trips (including International trips) departing before April 30.
- All athletics and artistic events.
- Note: Students enrolled in AMDEC will be communicated with directly.

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The board will be providing information and/or resources for families related to learning activities for students during this period of school closure, as direction is provided by the Ministry of Education. This information will be posted on the board's website over the March Break.

We have received questions asking whether consideration has been given to extending the school year. This decision will be made provincially and at this point the province has shared that it is too early to make a decision on whether or not to extend the school year beyond June 26, 2020.

The board will continue to monitor this situation throughout this time period and will continue to take our direction from Huron Perth Public Health and the Ministry of Education. Updates will be provided as they become available.

The safety and well-being of our students and staff are always our top priority. Please continue to seek information about COVID-19 from reputable sources. Take care of yourselves and your loved ones in the coming weeks, enjoy your March Break together, and we look forward to welcoming students and staff back on Monday, April 6.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lisa Walsh". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Lisa" and the last name "Walsh" clearly legible.

Dr. Lisa Walsh, Director of Education
Avon Maitland District School Board