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Friday, March 13, 2020

Dear Prairie Spirit families:

Earlier this week, the World Health Organization determined the COVID-19 (coronavirus) outbreak is a pandemic. We learned yesterday of the first presumptive case of COVID-19 in Saskatchewan. The safety of our Prairie Spirit students and staff is our first priority and we want to share the measures we have in place to address this situation.

Prairie Spirit takes direction and guidance from the Saskatchewan Health Authority in this matter. The Division has a Pandemic Preparedness team that is leading this work in our organization. We are focusing on prevention strategies, ensuring appropriate responses as the situation develops and providing a safe environment for students and staff.

Cleaning at our schools is always done to a high standard and we are currently heightening our focus on cleaning surfaces. Schools have been instructed to review relevant hygiene practices. Our schools have posted handwashing charts from the Saskatchewan Health Authority (www.germsmart.ca) to guide students.

Please help protect yourself and others:

- Wash your hands frequently and thoroughly with soap and water; use alcohol-based sanitizer if soap is unavailable
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands
- Practice proper coughing and sneezing etiquette with tissues or use your elbow, if necessary
- Practice social distancing by not shaking hands, hugging, etc.
- Stay home if you become ill and prevent the spread of illness
- Follow and comply with Saskatchewan Health Authority [guidelines for travel](#)

As always, if your child is sick, please keep them home from school. Students presenting with symptoms as described by the Saskatchewan Health Authority (fever, cough, shortness of breath and breathing difficulties) will be expected to go home.

If a parent or caregiver is experiencing symptoms, please do not come into the school and/or make alternate arrangements for dropping off or picking up your child.

Up-to-date information is available from the provincial government at: www.saskatchewan.ca/coronavirus, including updated information on out-of-country travel that all families should review. Prairie Spirit has a link to the government's website at www.spiritsd.ca.

Prairie Spirit will keep families updated on any new information or changes to school operations. Please contact your local school if you have questions.

Sincerely,

Brad Nichol, Learning Superintendent
Prairie Spirit School Division

Dave Carter, Learning Superintendent
Prairie Spirit School Division