



**Stu Henry**  
Superintendent of Schools

March 12, 2020

Dear Parents:

Red Deer Public Schools continues to monitor and respond to the Covid-19 pandemic. The health and wellness of all students and staff is our highest priority during this difficult time.

Please know that we are in ongoing contact with Alberta Health Services and Alberta Education following their advice and directives in addressing the pandemic. They are in the best position to provide direction and best practices on how we can best respond as well as ensuring consistency among school jurisdictions across the province. We also urge families to follow the advice provided by Alberta Health Services in the care of your children and families.

This afternoon, Alberta Health Services shared significant directives to help reduce the spread and transmission of the Covid 19 virus. These include:

- no large gatherings of 250 people or more
- taking precautions for events with less than 250 participants
- recommending no travel outside of Canada

As a result of these directives, I have directed principals to cancel large events like assemblies, parent-teacher conferences, etc. in their schools.

At this time, Alberta Health Services has not recommended school closings but this may be a future possibility. We will provide updates as details emerge. These decisions will be directed by Alberta Health Services and Alberta Education and not by individual schools or our school division.

Red Deer Public has developed a [web page](#) on each of our websites that will provide complete information and updates. This will serve as your go to source on any information and decisions we undertake regarding the pandemic. We will also utilize School Messenger to distribute information. You can also contact your school administration if you have specific questions.

We appreciate your support and understanding during these challenging times. We are grateful for the strong leadership and support from Alberta Health Services to provide the best decisions for our schools and the greater community.

Sincerely,

*Stu Henry*

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