



March 11, 2020

Dear NCDSB families and stakeholders,

There is growing concern across our world about the spread of the novel Coronavirus (COVID-19). We are monitoring the information closely and are engaging in ongoing contingency planning to protect the health and safety of our students and staff. We are working closely with our local health units and are further taking guidance from our provincial health care and education leaders.

We are committed to keeping you informed and communicating important messages to you. We will use our Board website as a main space to share updates and will use other strategies as well, like newsletters and our phone system messenger. You are encouraged to visit our website at www.ncdsb.on.ca for updates and resources.

At this time, I can confirm that we are enhancing our cleaning protocols in our schools to ensure that high-traffic areas are cleaned and disinfected thoroughly and repeatedly over the course of a school day. We are exploring other products and devices to help us minimize risks in our learning spaces.

As well, and perhaps most importantly, we are actively promoting and teaching our students appropriate hygiene etiquette including the following:

- Wash your hands frequently and thoroughly with soap and water or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer;
- Cover your mouth and nose when you sneeze or cough;
- If you don't have a tissue, sneeze or cough into your sleeve or arm;
- Keep hands away from face and mouth;
- Do not share food, and avoid the sharing of pencils, scissors, etc;
- No sharing of water bottles (especially on sports teams);
- If you are sick, stay home.

We need your assistance and support as well. Continue to encourage your children to practice these things at all times. It is critical that we each do our part to minimize the spread of germs and illness.

We wish you all a wonderful March Break and pray that you will find rest and relaxation amid this time of international health concern. Be safe, stay healthy, and take good care of each other.

***I alone cannot change the world,
but I can cast a stone across the waters to create many ripples.***

Mother Teresa

Sincerely,

Tricia Stefanic Weltz
Director of Education