

March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2020

To: **Students / Staff / Parents / Guardians**

Re: **A Message about the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)**

As you may have seen in the media, efforts to contain the spread of COVID-19 (Coronavirus) are ongoing globally including throughout Canada. While youth who are generally in good health seem to be more resilient to the effects of the virus, they can be carriers who can transmit the virus to others either directly or indirectly.

The federal government has released recommendations for public schools, which can be found here:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection/healthprofessionals/guidance-schools-childcare-programs.html>

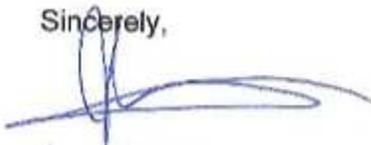
Within this document is the following statement: **There is currently no widespread transmission of COVID-19 in Canada; therefore, PHAC recommends that schools take standard respiratory illness precautions, the same precautions that are recommended every year for cold and influenza season.**

Beautiful Plains School Division has a Pandemic Planning document which can be found on our website. Below are some measures we are taking as a school division:

1. For the time-being we will continue our cleaning/disinfecting protocols within schools, focusing on common “high touch” surfaces such as doorknobs, faucets, etc.
2. If students are displaying symptoms of illness, parents/guardians are asked to keep students home. Staff who are ill are asked to do the same.
3. Students need to be reminded to be diligent with good hygiene practices, including regular hand washing as well as the correct way to cover their mouths when coughing/sneezing. In addition, students should be discouraged from sharing food.
4. This letter is being sent home to parents/guardians of all students, indicating all of the above.
5. Up to date information and resources can be found on the following websites:  
<https://www.gov.mb.ca/health/coronavirus/>  
<https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019>
6. For health questions or more information on respiratory illness, Manitobans can also phone Health Links-Info Santé at [204-788-8200](tel:204-788-8200) or [1-888-315-9257](tel:1-888-315-9257) (toll-free)
7. The following link has information from today’s media release from Manitoba Government:  
<https://news.gov.mb.ca/news/index.html?item=46930&posted=2020-03-12>

Please check our website for ongoing communication if there are further developments.

Sincerely,



Jason Young  
Superintendent/CEO