Medicine Hat Catholic Board of Education
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March 13, 2020

Dear MHCBE families:

As you are aware, Alberta's Chief Medical Officer of Health provided an update late yesterday afternoon. The update included the following information:

"All large gatherings of more than 250 people, or international events in the province are to be cancelled.

"This includes large sporting events, conferences and community events. It does not extend to places of worship, grocery stores, airports or shopping centres.

"Any event that has less than 250 attendees and expects to have international participants, or involves critical infrastructure staff, seniors, or other high-risk populations should also be cancelled.

"Events of less than 250 people that do not meet these criteria can proceed as long as risk mitigation is in place such as sanitizer stations, ensuring that there is a mechanism for keeping anyone ill from attending, and distancing between attendees.

"At this time, schools and daycares can remain open but schools are encouraged to avoid large all-school gatherings.

"In addition to these measures, I am expanding my recommendation from yesterday, and am advising Albertans to not travel outside of the country at this time. Given the rapid global spread of the virus, it is no longer possible to assess health risks for the duration of the trip.

"Also, given the quickly evolving nature of this outbreak, I am recommending that Albertans who are currently outside the country self-isolate on their return for 14 days, independent of the country they were visiting.

"Finally, I am recommending that any Albertan who is ill with influenza-like symptoms such as fever or cough stay at home for 14 days after their illness started.

In accordance with the Chief Medical Officer's direction, Medicine Hat Catholic Schools are implementing the following direction immediately and it will remain in effect until further notice:

1. Activities involving students and staff at this time can continue as planned, providing these are small group activities involving individual classes.

2. All activities outside of the jurisdiction, province and country are cancelled.
3. Activities which will involve outside persons, such as Parent Teacher Interviews, performances, sporting events are postponed.
4. Schools may not hold assemblies until further notice.

Self-Isolation- what if my family needs to self-isolate?
If families/children self-isolate then they should do so for 14 days. We ask that parents and guardians that are in self-isolation **do not visit** the school (i.e. enter the school to pick up children, homework, etc.) during the 14 day timeframe. **We ask that all students bring their books, projects and homework home with them today in case a situation arises and they need to be self-isolated.**

Staying Informed
Below are two links which provide the most up-to-date information on the pandemic. These websites provides resources and links to other government departments with jurisdiction over related matters, like travel advisories and bans. These sites are updated regularly and thus it is recommended to view these frequently to get the most current information.

www.alberta.ca/coronavirus

www.ahs.ca/covid

Thank you for your continued diligence in encouraging proper hand washing with your students. As new information becomes available we will endeavor to keep you updated. Please visit our Facebook page @MHCatholic and website https://www.mhcbe.ab.ca/our-district/news/post/covid-19 for timely updates.

God bless,



Dwayne Zarichny
Superintendent of Schools
Medicine Hat Catholic Board of Education