

COVID-19 Information

Currently, Albertans have a very low chance of contracting COVID-19. If you have questions or concerns about what is happening in Alberta, how the virus is spread, and what to do if you have symptoms, Alberta Health Services recommends that you call [Health Link](#) by dialing 811. You may also contact federal health services by dialing 1-833-784-4397.

For updates, we encourage you to visit the [Government of Alberta website](#), the [Alberta Health Services website](#), [Government of Canada website](#), as well as the information page for the [World Health Organization](#) for the most detailed and up to date information on COVID-19.

COVID-19 Messages

- [Chief Medical Officer Update, March 11, 2020](#)
- [Message to the WISE Community, March 3, 2020.pdf](#)
- [Alberta Health Memo to Parents, March 3, 2020.pdf](#)
- [WISE Music and Hygiene, March 11, 2020.pdf](#)
- [Public Health Agency of Canada Guidance for Schools](#)
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Resources

Health Organizations

- [Government of Canada](#)
- [Coronavirus Info for Albertans](#)
- [Government of Alberta](#)
- [Alberta Health Services](#)
- [World Health Organization](#)

Other Resources

- [How to Talk to Kids About Coronavirus](#)

Frequently Asked Questions

When should I keep my child home from school?

The Government of Alberta website states that:

Parents should call [Health Link 811](#) for additional precautions and follow-up testing if their children have travelled to anywhere outside of Canada and experienced any of the following:

- contact with someone who was suspected or confirmed to have the novel coronavirus
- were in a health-care facility
- have symptoms, such as cough or fever

If a student does not meet the exposure criteria above, they do not need to stay away from school and they will likely not be tested for COVID-19 as they do not meet the testing criteria.

If your child has a serious communicable disease, you must notify the school so we can comply with reporting requirements.

What happens if my child feels sick while at school?

While we usually monitor ill students for a period of time, given the circumstances parents will be immediately called to pick up their child as quickly as possible.

What can families, students, and school personnel do to keep from getting sick and spreading COVID-19?

Alberta Health Services recommends the following preventive actions to help prevent the spread of COVID-19:

- [Wash your hands often and well.](#)
- Avoid touching your face, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Clean and disinfect surfaces that are frequently touched.
- Stay at home and away from others if you are feeling ill.
- [When sick, cover your coughs and sneezes and then wash your hands.](#)

What additional steps is the school taking at this time?

The school is taking extra care with cleaning and disinfection processes, with particular attention to common surfaces.

- Additional cleaning of common surfaces by faculty and staff is happening at regular intervals throughout the school day.
- The custodian has implemented a disinfectant protocol in addition to the regular cleaning.
- All faculty and staff are maintaining appropriate hand washing and sanitizing protocols upon entering the building and throughout the day.

We continue to closely monitor the situation and will keep you updated as things change.

Is the Waldorf Independent School of Edmonton closing?

The Waldorf Independent School of Edmonton will remain open at this time.

How will the decision be made to close the school?

In the event of a COVID-19 outbreak in our community, the school will work closely with Alberta Health Services and health professionals to determine the best course of action, following all public health protocols.

Under what circumstances will the school close?

If a case of COVID-19 is identified in the WISE community, we will follow local and/or provincial health authorities' recommendations or orders to close. We may, out of an abundance of caution and in consideration of the school's unique needs and situation, close even if health officials don't deem it necessary.

What can a parent do to prepare for a school closure?

We encourage you to follow the advice of Alberta Health Services:

- Plan alternative childcare arrangements for children in case school is dismissed early and/or closed.
- Talk to friends, neighbors, and other parents in school about sharing childcare duties if your children are well, but school is closed.
- Talk to your employer about working from home or shifting schedules in the event of a school closure.

What about events and gatherings?

We will make decisions about holding or canceling events with an abundance of caution and based on the updated information from Alberta Health Services. In the event that a WISE public gathering is canceled, an email will go out to all WISE community members. Alberta Health Services does advise that to increase your chances of staying healthy, it is best to avoid crowded settings, especially if you are over 60, or have chronic health conditions such as diabetes, heart disease, lung disease, or a weakened immune system.

What can a parent do to prepare for an outbreak of COVID-19?

Although the current risk to people in Alberta from COVID-19 remains low, the situation is rapidly evolving. Alberta Health Services recommends that individuals prepare now in order to reduce the number of illnesses and negative effects that could occur in our community. Because the situation is rapidly evolving, we encourage you to stay up to date with the latest information and recommendations from health officials (see list of Health Organizations, above).

How will my child's education continue in the event of an extended school closure?

Faculty are considering how lessons, assignments, activities, resources, etc. that would allow our educational program to continue as much as possible in the event of an extended school closure.