

Seventh-day Adventist® Church

ALBERTA CONFERENCE



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AB Adventist Education Letter to Parents-COVID 19 March 15, 2020

Dear Parents:

Thank you for carefully reading this letter regarding the most up to date COVID-19 measures that will be taken by the Alberta Conference of Seventh-day Adventist schools as per direction from Alberta Health Services (AHS).

On March 14, the Alberta Chief Medical Officer of Health has given new directions to our schools that will be effective Monday, March 16, which we want to share with our families.

This new direction includes a zero-tolerance policy for children with any respiratory symptoms attending school. Teachers will be asked to monitor their classrooms closely, and if any student is having respiratory symptoms such as cough or symptoms of a mild cold, the steps below will be followed. The same steps will be followed if a staff member begins to experience respiratory symptoms. Please note these are guidelines implemented by the Alberta Chief Medical Officer of Health.

- If a student, child or staff develops respiratory symptoms while at school, they should be removed from the school environment.
- Schools promptly separate the student or staff with symptoms of COVID-19 (e.g. fever, cough, sore throat, shortness of breath, fatigue, headache, muscle aches, and including symptoms that may seem like a mild cold) in an area separate from others, with adequate supervision until they can go home.
- The most important steps to help prevent transmission, are to reinforce strict respiratory etiquette and hand hygiene practices and to have the ill students or staff stay two meters away from others. If possible, the student will be placed in a separate room from other students with a closed door. Any rooms they have been in while symptomatic will be cleaned and disinfected before others enter them.



- Schools will notify parents/guardians if their child begins to experience respiratory symptoms while at school, and arrange for immediate pick-up.
- Students who begin to show respiratory symptoms while at school need to be picked up by their parent/guardian and avoid travel on public transport such as school buses.
- Students or staff who develop respiratory symptoms should be kept home for 14 days after the start of the symptoms.
- If students are tested for COVID-19, those who test negative will be advised individually about return to school.

We recognize the impact this new direction will have on families. If you are called to pick up your child, we ask that you go to the school immediately as per these new Alberta Health regulations.

School Closure Update

In addition to these measures, the Alberta Chief Medical Officer of Health stated on Friday that at this time, schools will remain open. School closures are a decision that will be made by Alberta Health Services and Alberta Education. It is felt that the current restrictions that are in place are the best practices to reduce the transmission of COVID-19. This situation is dynamic, and the Alberta Conference Education Department will continue following the guidelines from Alberta Health Services to make the best decisions to ensure the safety and health of our students and staff.

We encourage you to regularly check the AB Conference website (albertaadventist.ca) as well as Facebook, Twitter, or Instagram for updated information (ABAdventist).

We remain confident and assured that God is in control. We ask for your continued prayers for the leaders of our province and our principals, teachers and students. We appreciate your support and understanding during these challenging times.

Thank you for cooperating with us.

Mrs. Ronda Ziakris
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Supporting Websites

<https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/>

<https://travel.gc.ca/travelling/advisories>

