

COVID-19 UPDATE: CHARTER BUS SERVICES CANCELLED

Immediate Release: On March 11, 2020 Alberta's Chief Medical Officer of Health announced that COVID-19 reached pandemic status. It was also confirmed that the COVID-19 can spread person-to-person by larger droplets (cough, sneeze or touching contaminated surfaces). Alberta Health Services (AHS) advised on March 11, 2020, at 3:30 p.m. that there are 19 confirmed cases in Alberta and that the exposure risk in Alberta to COVID-19 is assessed as low but anticipates the risk may increase in the coming weeks.

Grande Yellowhead Public School Division is currently reviewing all Division health and safety protocols. The Division will update their employees and families as new information becomes available. Our first priority is always the health, safety and well-being of those under our care and precautionary procedures put into place are to protect students and staff from unnecessary exposure and risk. Please check our website at www.gypsd.ca for up-to-date information as well as the Alberta Health Services website on COVID-19 updates.

The following actions have been taken by GYPSD to protect the health of those under our care as of **MARCH 12, 2020**, until further notice:

- All charter bus services for school and extra-curricular trips have been cancelled
- Increased sanitization and cleaning of all school facilities and vehicles, including buses
- Families and staff are asked to follow the safety precautions and directions from Alberta Health Services if they have travelled outside of Canada and/or are exhibiting COVID-19 like symptoms
- Due to the unpredictability of the virus, please note that school activities and events will move forward at the discretion of the principal.