

Wetaskiwin Regional Public Schools
COVID-19
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ)
March 18, 2020



The following provides common responses to inquiries regarding classes being cancelled due to COVID - 19. Where the response is "To Be Determined" please continue to check back for the answer.

Question	WRPS Response
All questions	<p>This is a very dynamic situation and is subject to change as the government and our schools respond in the best way possible to COVID - 19 pandemic.</p> <p>We recommend that the public continue to monitor the Alberta government's COVID-19 coronavirus website. It is the source of the most up-to-date information for Albertans.</p>
Medical Concerns	<p>All medical based questions should be referred to Alberta Health Services. Contact 8-1-1 (Health Link) or your health care provider for questions about your personal health situation.</p> <p>If parents are concerned about symptoms refer to the following self assessment tool:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/news/Page15433.aspx

<p>Why were classes cancelled?</p>	<p>The spread of COVID-19 pandemic in Alberta has warranted the government to take aggressive public health measures which are being implemented in the province to limit the spread of COVID-19 and to protect Albertans. The decision to cancel classes was made by Alberta's Chief Medical Officer of Health and the Minister of Education based on providing the best response in these circumstances.</p> <p>Effective March 16, 2020, student attendance in schools is prohibited. Classes will be cancelled for students until further notice.</p>
<p>How long will classes be cancelled and student attendance be prohibited?</p>	<p>This will depend on the containment of the virus based on the strict measures that have been implemented. The Government announcement indicated that classes will be cancelled in schools indefinitely.</p> <p>We will take direction from the government if the situation changes. We do not know how long classes will be cancelled for.</p>
<p>Will my child be able to do some work at home as long as classes are cancelled? What will be done for students to stay caught up in their learning?</p>	<p>In making the announcement, the government pledged that school staff will still be working and are expected to support continuity of learning for their students.</p> <p>Teachers and other school staff will still be expected to work, either from home or at their workplace, to ensure these expectations are met.</p> <p>Decisions on how to do this are still to be made. Our schools are looking at the best options for their school community. An update will be provided on March 31</p>

<p>What is going to happen with my child's schooling?</p> <p>Will students automatically pass the grade? Or will they have to redo the grade again?</p>	<p>In its announcement, the government committed that</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Students will receive final grades ● Students will progress to the next grade level ● Grade 6 & 9 Provincial Achievement Tests have been cancelled ● Diploma Exams - We are waiting for direction from Alberta Education ● Students will graduate if eligible
<p>Are we able to come to the school and pick up books, personal possessions and supplies?</p> <p>What will be the process to pick up books and belongings ?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● We will allow parents to access books and personal items that students have at school arrangements will be made and announced after the Spring Break. ● Schools will communicate to parents via School Messenger and place information on the websites. ● Parents and students are requested to wait until they are contacted by the school - they are not to come to the school before then.
<p>Will my child continue to receive Speech Language / Occupational Therapy support?</p>	<p>More time is needed to determine if and how these services can be provided. A response will be provided by March 31</p>
<p>Will we still have parent / teacher interviews?</p>	<p>Parent / teacher interviews are postponed indefinitely.</p>
<p>Will the kindergarten open houses still be held?</p>	<p>School facilities are not open to the public until further notice.</p> <p>More time is needed to determine if and how we can host kindergarten open houses. An update will be provided by March 31</p>

<p>WRPS loan out Chromebooks?</p>	<p>Yes. A prioritization process is under development</p>
<p>What if teachers have to work from home and do not have internet access? Will they still be able to access the school to post things online?</p>	<p>Schools are open to staff. If staff require access to school outside of regular business hours, they should follow the school's operating procedure that is currently in place.</p>
<p>When/if we supply families with school work, are we supplying only copies/consumables, or are we also supplying textbooks?</p>	<p>Expectations for learning continuity plans have not been finalized. This question will be taken under advisement. An update will be provided by March 31</p>
<p>We have been asked about a time/way for parents to clean the school kitchen (from hot lunches) and dealing with the food that is at the school for hot lunches and movie night?</p>	<p>Approved parent volunteers should follow the same guidelines as staff if there is work that needs to be done at school.</p>
<p>How will sick time work for people on temporary contracts? Will it run out if they are self-isolation or sick?</p>	<p>We have added a new descriptor for employees to select if they are absent from work because they are required to self-isolate or care for a loved one with COVID-19. Employees can select "self-isolation" and this descriptor will not deduct leave from their sick leave allocation.</p>
<p>How should student attendance be tracked?</p>	<p>A student attendance code "X" has been created to report student attendance until students return to school. It is a one-time code.</p> <p>Attendance code "X" can be mass assigned to all students by the School Administrative Assistant. Denice Monaghan is providing support.</p>

<p>Should employees who are at home due to experiencing cold symptoms, continue to enter their leaves into the system?</p>	<p>We have added a new descriptor for employees to select if they are absent from work because they are required to self-isolate or care for a loved one with COVID-19. Employees can select “self-isolation” and this descriptor will not deduct leave from their sick leave allocation.</p>
<p>What is the process for families who do not have internet access?</p>	<p>Learning continuity plans will be developed. Options will address the different family needs.</p>
<p>Will a graduation ceremony occur?</p>	<p>Guidelines for graduation ceremonies are under review.</p>
<p>Will spring break still occur for students/staff?</p>	<p>There is no change in the date for Spring Break.</p>
<p>Will my child still have to write diploma exams?</p>	<p>Alberta Education has not confirmed who is required to write diploma exams. An update will be provided on March 31.</p>
<p>Are teachers available for telephone parent teacher conferences?</p>	<p>Plans for parent teacher interviews and conferences will be developed in conjunction with learning continuity plans.</p>
<p>Will Hope Mission be able to continue to support families who regularly accessed the nutrition project at our schools?</p> <p>Can connections be made with the local Food Banks to support families who relied on the daily</p>	<p>The school division and Hope Mission will work together to develop a plan that meets Alberta Education requirements regarding the nutrition program.</p> <p>Theresa Armstrong will coordinate efforts to provide access to perishable food that is ready to be distributed.</p>

<p>food and weekend bags?</p>	<p>Information will be updated on March 31.</p>
<p>Should principals be sending out information to parents? If so when and will the information come from the division office.</p>	<p>Principals need the approval of the Superintendent to send messages to parents. The Division is working with Alberta Education and other school divisions to ensure the messages sent out are accurate and consistent.</p>
<p>Will families who have paid school fees for the 2019-2020 school year receive a refund?</p>	<p>Where appropriate, arrangements will be made to either credit or refund school fees if a decision is made by the Government of Alberta to cancel classes for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year.</p>
<p>Will those families who have paid transportation fees for the 2019-2020 school year receive a refund?</p>	<p>Arrangements will be made to refund transportation fees if a decision is made by the Government of Alberta to cancel classes for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year.</p>
<p>Are all student related extracurricular activities cancelled at all WRPS schools?</p>	<p>Yes, all extracurricular student related activities are cancelled until such time as the Government of Alberta announces that classes will resume for students.</p>
<p>Are all facility use arrangements made with external community members, groups and organizations cancelled?</p>	<p>Yes, all facility use arrangements are cancelled until such time as the Government of Alberta announces that classes will resume for students.</p>
<p>Will public libraries located in a school be open to the public?</p>	<p>School facilities are not open to the public until further notice.</p>

<p>Registration verification forms for 2020-2021 were to be sent home on Monday. How do we handle registration verification for next year?</p>	<p>A plan for registration verification will be developed and communicated by March 31.</p>
<p>How will sick time work for people on temp contracts. Will it run out if they are self-isolation or sick?</p>	<p>To Be Determined</p>
<p>What is happening with Kindergarten Open House dates and registration?</p>	<p>Plans for Kindergarten Open House are under review. An update will be provided on March 31.</p>
<p>When/if we supply families with school work, are we supplying only copies/consumables, or are we also supplying textbooks?</p>	<p>This question will be addressed through the development of a Continuity of Learning Plan. An update will be provided on March 31.</p>
<p>Are teachers able to set up a group email of their students' parents? Or would Tech do that?</p> <p>It would just be used as a form of communication to check in with their families, not for any instructional purposes</p>	<p>At this time teachers should be using established practices for communication.</p> <p>School Messenger is also an option for general communication.</p> <p>Plans to support communication are being developed for review with principals when staff return from spring break.</p>

<p>The work that the teachers have already collected for term three are they going to be able to enter those marks?</p>	<p>Teachers should be entering marks gathered into the gradebook. We are awaiting direction from Alberta Education on how to assign a final grade.</p>
<p>At what point will we be asked to/able to work from home? What will the procedure be for this?</p>	<p>To Be Determined</p>
<p>What can parents do with school library books?</p>	<p>Library books can be returned when parents are notified that they can pick up their child's books and personal items. School arrangements will be made and announced after the Spring Break.</p>