



# SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 48

*Always Supporting Learners*

◆ *Valuing Individuals* ◆ *Fostering Pride* ◆ *Expanding Opportunities*

Dear Trusted Agents: Update #4 COVID 19 March 20, 2020

## **Frequently Asked Questions:**

### **Should children be returning home?**

We have taken the view that this is a decision that needs to be weighed by the family and that we will support each family. Ultimately, each country and family has their own factors that need to be considered and our school district is here to support you in your decision making. Here are some factors and suggestions that we have for you in making your decisions:

- Has your country asked for its citizens to return home?
  - If so, what will take place when the student arrives: Will they need to quarantine for 14 days prior to seeing their natural families?
- In Canada our numbers of infected CoVID cases are relatively low at the moment. We are expecting this to grow dramatically in the coming weeks.
  - If your child stays in Canada we cannot guarantee that they will not contract the COVID 19 virus.
  - <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2020HLTH0092-000521>
- Regardless of whether you stay or go home we will provide learning opportunities for you. Your decision to stay or go home will not impact your academic year.
- We encourage you to have a conversation with your host family prior to making your decision. Their willingness to keep the student and their level of comfort is critical in your decision.
- If a student is returning home: airlines are becoming more and more restrictive and getting from country to country is becoming more difficult

We encourage all student's families to register their students with their countries' embassies. Most countries have App's for this and keep their countries' condition updated.

## **Refunds?**

We have received a number of requests for refunds. We will be bringing this issue to senior management in the next week and will outline our policy for refunds in the coming week.

If the situation does not improve, we are assuming that the student visas will not be issued by the Canadian government. This would fall into section (a) of our refund policy which I am attaching on this email. At present, we do not have CoVID specific language and we will be speaking to our board about this.

## **What does “suspension of in class learning mean”?**

I am attaching a letter by our Superintendent that goes over what this looks like today. As things develop in the coming weeks we will get a clearer understanding of this in the coming weeks. We know that our schools are social enterprises and that we will not be going back to ‘business as usual’ for some time. We do have an exceptional staff and leadership team that will work hard to put our new plans into place.

We will continue to support our students with transportation or any other needs that come up in the coming weeks.