



SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 48

Always Supporting Learners

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

Dear Trusted Agents: Update #5 COVID 19 March 27, 2020

Frequently Asked Questions:

Should children be returning home?

We are still leaving this in the hands of our agents, homestay families and international families to discuss. To date we have had 74 students return home. We have heard that some countries are being more restrictive about their citizens returning and that flights are very limited. We understand and will facilitate each family's wishes in this regard and we encourage you to reach out to us if you have any questions.

We have heard from many of our agents and families that kids are safer in Canada than they would be in their home country. Canada is late in its COVID journey and we are expecting cases to continue to grow. If your student stays in Canada we cannot guarantee that they will not get COVID nor can we guarantee their health, although we will do our best to keep all our students safe.

Refunds?

We will be reimbursing international families/agents for unused portions of the homestay fees. There are a number of factors to take into consideration when calculating the refunds, such as: if school does resume and students are able to return to their host families, and giving appropriate compensation to the host families for partial month stays. Our district will not be keeping any funds from homestay payments and will reimburse all remaining homestay fees that we have collected. As you can imagine, this will take some time to organize and complete. We hope to begin payment processing in early June.

In terms of tuition, the government and our district have committed to a 'continuity of learning' for all our students, including the ones that have returned overseas. Therefore, we will not be refunding any fees for tuition this year. This policy is aligned with most other districts in the Province.

For 2020-2021:

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.

For reasons not listed above, please refer to the refund policy for what would be returned.

Below are some clickable links with important information about what to expect in the coming weeks:

**“Continuity of Learning”:
Ministry of Education Update:**

https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/education/administration/kindergarten-to-grade-12/safe-caring-orderly/bc-ministry-of-education-questions-and-answers-continuity-of-learning-k-12-education_system.pdf

We will continue to support our students with transportation or any other needs that come up in the coming weeks. Each of the students who have gone home will continue to be registered with their schools. Next week they will receive email communication from the school. Each school will have the foundations of their ‘continuity of learning’ plans which will include each student that has returned home. They will continue to communicate directly with the family and students throughout the closure of in-class instruction.

You will find a detailed letter attached to this email from our School Superintendent.

<https://sd48seatosky.org/parents-3/information-novel-coronavirus-covid-19/>