March 11, 2020

Dear parents and caregivers,

At Saskatoon Public Schools, the safety of our students and staff members is our first priority. With the World Health Organization declaring the COVID-19 (coronavirus) outbreak a pandemic, we wanted to share with you the measures our school division has in place to address this public health situation.

Saskatoon Public Schools take its direction from the Saskatchewan Health Authority, and division staff have received regular updates on the situation. As of today, there are no confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Saskatchewan and public health officials state the risk remains low.

Our school division has a pandemic response plan and we have already taken preventative measures. We previously directed caretaking staff to prioritize sanitization in all our schools. Focus is being given to sanitizing push-pull points and frequently touched surfaces, such as door handles, water fountain buttons, desks, countertops, sinks, and taps.

We have asked our schools to review hygiene practices with students and have shared posters highlighting proper hand washing for posting in all bathrooms. These posters and other hygiene information can be accessed at www.germsmart.ca.

We ask that you review the following hygiene practices with your child(ren):

- Practice proper coughing and sneezing etiquette (into the bend of your elbow);
- Wash your hands often with soap and water; if soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer;
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands;
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick; and,
- Don’t share water bottles, band instruments, eating utensils, electronic devices, ear pods or food.

As always, we ask that if your child is sick, please keep your child home from school. Individuals who may have concerns about their health can call the provincial HealthLine at 811 for advice and support. Information and updates regarding COVID-19 are available on www.saskatchewan.ca/coronavirus.

Please contact your school if you have questions.

Sincerely,

Brent Hills, Superintendent of Education
Saskatoon Public Schools

Paul Janzen, Superintendent of Education
Saskatoon Public Schools