

Good afternoon, EIPS employees,

This morning (March 11), we were advised that the parent of two of students at A.L. Horton Elementary in Vegreville, following return from a vacation outside of Canada, was confirmed to have COVID-19. The spouse of the person diagnosed, along with their children, have not tested positive but are currently in self-isolation. The children, however, attended school earlier this week and rode on EIPS buses.

The safety and wellbeing of our staff and students are our utmost priority. We will be undertaking a deep clean of A.L. Horton Elementary and the buses used. As well, we will be shutting down the communal water fountains at the school and supplying bottled water for A.L. Horton staff and students. As an added precaution, we are cancelling all community use of the school and all large-scale school gatherings they had planned.

While we understand this news will be of concern to everyone, the risk remains low. The novel coronavirus is spread between people by droplets, which requires close contact with saliva or mucus from the mouth, nose or throat of an infected person. As such, individuals not in direct contact with the affected person are at low risk.

We will provide additional information as it becomes available. In the meantime, we encourage all of our employees to be sure they are:

- Washing hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after coughing or sneezing.
- Coughing or sneezing into an arm or tissue.
- Keeping hands away from face and mouth.
- Staying at home if they feel unwell or are exhibiting any flu-like symptoms

Additional information on how the Division is managing COVID-19 and precautions that should be taken is available [here](#). We will work through this together and in close collaboration with our local Health Authorities.

Sincerely,

Mark Liguori
Superintendent