Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses. They can cause diseases ranging from the common cold to more severe respiratory diseases. The most recently discovered coronavirus causes coronavirus disease COVID-19.

The infection spreads through coughing and sneezing (droplet transmission) within two metres. It can also be spread by touching surfaces with the virus on it and then touching your mouth, nose or eyes before washing your hands.

School Closures

On March 15th, the Chief Medical Health Officer indicated that school closures would be based on a number of factors including:

- Evidence of sustained transmission within the community
- Rapid increase of local cases
- Transmission without a known link to travel or confirmed cases.

There continues to be no evidence that any of the above three criteria have been met.

However, as a preventative and proactive approach school closures will begin March 20th for pre-K to Grade 12 schools in Saskatchewan.

For the period of March 16th to March 19th, pre-K to Grade 12 classes will wind down. This means that parents who are able to keep children home should do so immediately, with no absence or grade impacts. Parents with limited childcare options have a window to plan for class suspensions.

Children remaining in schools between March 16th and March 19th face a low risk of exposure to COVID-19.

Every student will receive a final grade based on their current grade, and students will progress to their next grade level next year. Every student who is eligible to graduate from Grade 12 this year will graduate. The Ministry of Education and School Divisions will work with Saskatchewan Post-Secondary Institutions to adapt entry requirements for programs commencing in the next academic year.
Teachers and staff can work from home or in schools as scheduled during the class cancellations.

For the rest of the scheduled school year, the Ministry of Education will work with School Divisions and Saskatchewan Teachers to implement a supplemental curriculum program through distance and alternative learning methods. While this supplemental curriculum will have no impact on final grades, it will ensure that students seeking to continue learning will have the resources necessary to do so.

These measures apply to daycares that are co-located with schools, but do not apply to licensed daycare facilities outside of schools. Further measures regarding licensed daycare facilities are being considered and will be implemented at a later date.

For more information on COVID-19, visit saskatchewan.ca/coronavirus