

Distributing Learning Materials

COVID-19 Precautions

The Ministry of Education is aware that not all students have access to technology to continue their education during the COVID-19 pandemic. In order to support teachers and support staff who may be delivering learning materials, the Ministry of Education, in consultation and guidance from the Saskatchewan Health Authority, has provided guidance that should be followed when supporting students outside the online and school setting.

COVID-19 is caused by the novel coronavirus SARS-CoV-2. The virus is mainly transmitted through respiratory droplets when a symptomatic person coughs or sneezes, or when contaminated hands come into contact with mucous membranes. Currently available evidence suggests that the virus may survive from a few hours to several days on surfaces. However, the risk of transmission from surfaces such as paper is low. There have not been any documented cases of SARS-CoV-2 transmission from paper surfaces.

It is imperative that staff, students, parents and caregivers are reminded of the importance of practicing strict preventive measures at all times, including during times when they interact with, or exchange material related to their learning or teaching activities. Precautions that should be taken to avoid the transmission of disease between staff and students include:

- Teachers and support staff should not interact with students, other staff or visit any homes if they are sick with COVID-19 symptoms or under direction to self-isolate.
- Avoid physical interaction. For example, staff can leave a package on a door step after notifying students ahead of the delivery, and confirming receipt afterwards by phone.
- Materials can be placed in a plastic bag, or container that can be cleaned between use following recommended environmental cleaning protocols.
- Maintain recommended physical distancing (at least 2 meters) between staff and students if they need to interact.
- Practice proper cough and sneezing etiquette.
- Washing hands often with soap and water, or using an alcohol-based hand sanitizer before and after handling of any material.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.

For additional information related to COVID-19 in Saskatchewan, please visit:

<https://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/health-care-administration-and-provider-resources/treatment-procedures-and-guidelines/emerging-public-health-issues/2019-novel-coronavirus>.