

## Educator Update this week

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## Face to face learning suspended due to COVID-19

The COVID-19 pandemic virus has impacted student learning across Canada and jurisdictions are planning and adapting to the measures in place to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic.

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, face-to-face learning for students has been suspended for the remainder of the school year, based on recommendations of Yukon's Chief Medical Officer of Health.

While face-to-face learning is suspended, central administration staff have been working with school principals and school staff to plan, adapt and prepare to deliver the essential learning to students at home through alternative and distance learning opportunities.

- **Communication with students and families before April 15**

Before April 15, school staff will reach out to students and families to inform them how learning will continue for each student for the remainder of the 2019-20 school year, based on the Yukon Learning Continuity Requirements.

It is important that you maintain regular communication with students and families during this period, and ensure students have the supports, resources and learning materials to complete their essential learning for the 2019-20 school year.

- **Alternative and distance learning resumes for students on April 16**

School staff will be prioritizing the essential learning that needs to be completed for the remainder of the school year and communicating their school's learning plan to parents, which outline how they will continue to meet the learning needs of their students.

Each teacher is expected to provide ongoing learning opportunities for students to learn at home for the remainder of this school year starting April 16.

Each teacher will still assess student learning during this time and provide final report cards.

## **Yukon Learning Continuity Requirements**

We recognize that educators will not be able to complete the full school curriculum. To support schools in identifying the essential learning students should complete for the remainder of the school year, the Department of Education has been working with the BC Ministry of Education and staff, both in schools and in the central administration building, to develop the Yukon Learning Continuity Requirements. A draft of these requirements were provided to all schools on March 27, 2020. [A public summary is also available online.](#)

The Yukon Learning Continuity Requirements outlines the expectations for school staff for how they determine the essential learning standards, and expectations for school staff communications with families for the remainder of the school year. It is a 'living' document that will be updated on a regular basis as we identify and adapt to changing needs and updated direction and recommendations from Yukon's Chief Medical Officer of Health.

Principals are leading their school staff in developing their school's learning plan using this document.

### **Key points that are covered in the Yukon Learning Continuity Requirements:**

- Initial communication with students and families before April 15 and ongoing communication after April 16
- Assessing student learning to date
- Identifying the essential learning standards for the remainder of the school year for each grade level
- Identifying alternative approaches to in-person classes
- Supporting students with diverse learning needs
- Protecting privacy of information while working online and from home
- Communication and supports available

## COVID-19 Health and safety

- **Common practices (physical distancing, handwashing and covering when coughing)**

Following common health and safety practices during this time is key to limiting the spread of COVID-19 and protecting friends, family and community members. Whether working at home or at the school, or out the community it is important to follow proper physical distancing measures, ensuring we are washing our hands and covering your mouth and nose with your inner elbow when coughing or sneezing.

More health and safety information and posters are available on:

- First Class;
- the [Government of Yukon's COVID-19 Yukonnect](#);
- [Yukon.ca/covid-19](https://yukon.ca/covid-19)

- **Wellbeing**

As the COVID-19 global pandemic continues to evolve rapidly, employees may experience uncertainty, worry, anxiety and stress about the health and safety of themselves and their loved ones, and how this pandemic may disrupt their work and personal lives. We encourage you to check in and connect with your colleagues, family members, friends and community members during this time.

Government of Yukon employees, including school staff, have access to supports through the following services:

- Employee and Family Assistance program
- Canada Life benefits
- LifeSpeak

Please visit the [Government of Yukon Yukonnect site](#) to learn more about accessing these supports. Mental wellness support information is under the 'Health and safety' section.

## Work policies and Human Resources questions

We recognize school staff may have many questions about working from home, health and safety, etc. during this time.

Learn more in the FAQ for school staff, which is attached to this e-mail. We also encourage you to read the Global Notes that are coming out from the Public Service Commission, which are being archived on First Class.

More employee questions are answered on the Government of Yukon:

- [Yukonnect.gov.yk.ca/employee-info/Pages/COVID-19-Information.aspx](https://yukonnect.gov.yk.ca/employee-info/Pages/COVID-19-Information.aspx)

- For teachers and EAs to log on to Yukonnect, use your Rapid ID credentials ((yesnet) email address) and your Rapid ID Password

Further questions should be raised with your school principal to ensure they are answered.

## Where to get updates

While we work together to plan and adapt to this situation in Yukon, we are providing regular updates to school staff, students and families.

### Admin Updates and Educator Updates

School administrators are continuing to receive updates through regular Administrator Update bulletins. We will also be providing regular updates to school staff through the Educator Update, which we will be aiming send out once a week on Wednesdays.

### First Class

All COVID-19 communications to staff are being archived in First Class. All memos, YG Global Notes, posters, signage etc. that has been sent out in the past few weeks are available. Staff Global Notes in English and in French (where available).

### Yukon.ca

Information for school staff and students and families is also being posted on Yukon.ca. Updates specifically about school programming:

- [Information for students and families](#)
- [Information for school staff](#)
- [Continuing student learning at home](#)

Current health-related information can be found at:

- [Yukon.ca/covid-19](#)
- [Canada.ca/coronavirus](#)

Government of Yukon internal Yukonnect site with HR questions answered:

- [yukonnect.gov.yk.ca/employee-info/Pages/COVID-19-Information.aspx](http://yukonnect.gov.yk.ca/employee-info/Pages/COVID-19-Information.aspx)
  - For teachers and EAs to log on to Yukonnect, use your Rapid ID credentials ((yesnet) email address) and your Rapid ID Password

## Other school program updates

- **Junior REM**

The Junior REM 2020 in Faro this spring has been cancelled due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

- **School council elections postponed**

The general election for members of the 26 school councils which was scheduled for April 9-May 4, 2020 has been postponed. A revised date for the general election is under review.

- **DELFL exams postponed**

The Diplôme d'études en langue française (DELFL) assessment planned for April is postponed until further notice.

## Resources for educators

- **Online learning tools**

These flyers have been developed to provide an introduction and links to valuable resources to support teachers that choose to use Yukon Education sanctioned, and supported, online learning tools that can be used with students to continue learning remotely.

- [Remote Teaching & Learning Educator's Toolkit – Start Here!](#)
- [Getting Started with Microsoft's Office 365 Guide](#)
- [Getting Started with Google's G Suite](#)
- [Getting Started with Moodle Guide](#)
- [Getting Started with Zoom Guide](#)
- [Continuity of Learning Resources](#)

- **Math teachers: resources and ideas through the BC Association of Math Teachers**

If you are not already a member of BCAMT (BC Association of Math Teachers), you are strongly encouraged to register to be a part of their listserve. The listserv connects math teachers who are ready and willing to share advice and expertise. There are lots of ideas and resources for supporting student learning through COVID-19.

You can register online at [BC Association of Math Teachers](#).

## Action items

- Talk to your principal about planning your learning opportunities for your students and the Yukon Learning Continuity Requirements.
- Visit First Class to review all COVID-19 communications that have gone out so far
- Visit [Government of Yukon's COVID-19 Yukonnect site](#) and check out the attached FAQ for any HR questions.
- Visit the [Government of Yukon Yukonnect site](#) to learn more about accessing mental wellness supports under the 'Health and safety' section.