



Deputy Minister's office (E-1)
PO Box 2703, Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 2C6

April 3, 2020

Dear school councils,

RE: Education update while classes are suspended

Thank you for your patience and understanding as the Government of Yukon works to provide current and accurate information regarding the COVID-19 pandemic and measures in response to the recommendations of Yukon's Chief Medical Officer of Health, such as the current suspension of classes for Yukon students.

Currently, classes are suspended until April 15. School staff have returned to working after their scheduled Spring Break, and with their principal are adapting and preparing to ensure continued learning for students after April 15.

Until April 15, students are not to attend school, and are not expected to complete lessons from home.

What families can expect after April 15

We are planning for different scenarios, including ways to deliver lessons to students if in-person classes continue to be suspended after April 15. The decisions about what happens with school programming after April 15 will be based on the recommendations of Yukon's Chief Medical Officer of Health and we will notify school communities as soon as more information is available.

Learning opportunities provided to students after April 15 may look different than regular classes. We are preparing to offer alternative learning opportunities if needed, whether online, from home or other learning opportunities. How this is achieved may look different at each school. Right now, central administration staff, principals and teachers are working together to:

- Identify where students are at in their learning to date.
- Identify the most essential learning for students that can be completed for rest of the school year.
- Ensure students who are eligible to graduate Grade 12 this year will graduate.
- Look at how to best deliver essential learning to students and communicate student learning to families should the suspension of face-to-face classes continue after April 15.

We have learning technology available that allows us to offer some online learning opportunities for students. We also recognize that online learning may not be suitable or available for all students or communities, and we are planning different types of resources for students to complete learning activities at home.

School staff connecting with students and families before April 15

Principals and teachers have started connecting with students and families. They will be contacting families to stay in touch and discuss how best to communicate about learning opportunities moving forward.

Supporting students while they are not in class

While students are away from classes, we encourage students and families to stay active, connect and be social while practicing physical distancing, and to continue to learn and keep their brains active. Parents/guardians should encourage their child to stick with a regular routine, including regular bed, wake-up and mealtimes, to help maintain a sense of normalcy and stability. Parents/guardians should also show interest and encourage their child's learning, and ensure their child feels safe, loved and supported.

To keep brains active at home, parents/guardians can consider activities relating to:

- Literacy and reading through picking up a new book to read and reading aloud with their child;
- Numeracy, math and problem solving through different games and activities; or
- Creativity through learning new skills and trying new things that can be done at home.

2020 school council elections

The Minister of Education recently authorized the postponement of the general election for members of the 26 school councils scheduled for the period April 9 – May 4, 2020.

A revised date for the general election is under review. We will provide you with more information once new dates are confirmed.

Where to get updates

As we move forward, we will continue to work toward providing regular updates to school communities, Yukon First Nations and partners. The most current information for students and families is at yukon.ca/en/your-government/find-out-what-government-doing/information-public-school-students-and-families. Information for school staff is at <https://yukon.ca/en/your-government/find-out-what-government-doing/information-public-school-staff>.

For general updates and health information on COVID-19:

- In Yukon (including school-related updates): yukon.ca/en/information-about-novel-coronavirus-yukoners.
- Canada: canada.ca/coronavirus

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Nicole Morgan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Nicole" and last name "Morgan" clearly distinguishable.

Nicole Morgan
Deputy Minister of Education