



Frequently Asked Questions for Parents Regarding COVID-19 Related School Closures

Updated March 25, 2020 - Updates in RED

- ASD-S is working in consultation with the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (EECD) regarding the current school closures and how it will affect the academic year. These messages will be updated through school connects, Twitter, Facebook and the District Website as we receive information on this continuously evolving situation.
- ASD-S shares the concerns of our school communities and staff pertaining to health and safety. We will continue to take all of the precautions recommended by the Department of Health pertaining to the ongoing COVID-19 situation.
- The health and safety of our students and staff remains our primary priority.

1) Why are schools closed until further notice?

- Schools are closed under the authority of an all-party committee of government with the support of the Office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health Dr. Jennifer Russell due to the ongoing COVID-19 Global Pandemic. This closure will be reassessed on an ongoing basis.

1A) Will the closure impact my Child and Youth Team appointment?

- Your child's health and safety, including their mental health, is our priority. Students will continue to be supported. Parents can contact their Child and Youth Team office directly. If you do not know their number, please call the one of the numbers below:

- Charlotte County: 506-466-7380
- Saint John: 506-658-3737
- Sussex: 506-432-2217

2) Can my child attend Co-Op or Distance learning?

- Co-Op and distance learning are considered school courses therefore students will not be required to attend their placement or access on-line course material.

3) Will Home-Hospital Tutoring continue during the closure?

- All Home-Hospital Tutoring will be cancelled during the closure.

4) What are the expectations for school work during the closure?

- Currently work is not being assigned to students.

5) Will schools be providing assignments/online learning?

- Our School District team is collaborating with school leaders and the Department of Education to pursue learning options. You should not expect learning options and materials until April at the earliest.

6) Are field and activity trips cancelled?

- All trips and activities are cancelled during the closure. We will reassess the remainder of the year at the end of the closure.

7) Are out of Province/International school trips cancelled?

- All International trips are cancelled until the end of the year. All interprovincial trips have been cancelled for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year.

8) Will report card dates be impacted by the closure?

- The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development have confirmed there will be no April Report Cards at this time.

9) Will the closure impact my child's marks?

- No.

10) Will this closure impact my child's potential to graduate?

- This closure will not affect students who are on a successful graduation path.

11) Will this closure affect graduations ceremonies and prom events?

- This closure will not affect graduations ceremonies or prom events at this time. **We will reassess the remainder of the year at the end of the closure.**

12) Will this closure impact post-secondary applications and scholarships?

- We do not believe there will be an impact; however, it is best to check with your post-secondary institution or scholarship provider.

13) Will this closure affect the length of the school year? ie: will it be extended into the summer?

- We have not received any direction from the Minister of Education on this topic.

14) Are daycares/early learning and childcare facilities closed?

- **Some facilities remain open to support essential service workers and follow the advice set out by the Chief Medical Officer of Health, including reduced group sizes, and social distancing. In addition, they will continue to follow strict health and safety directives. Essential services workers who have questions regarding essential child care services can call 1-833-221-9339.**

Parents who are essential service workers who require early learning and child care must register to the [Parent Portal](#) with the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development to receive direct communications from the department and for placement opportunities.

15) Do I still have access to the school building during this closure?

- No. If an extenuating circumstance exists such as medication inside a school please contact your principal.

15a) Can my child use the school playground?

- All ASD-S school playgrounds are closed until further notice. You can allow your children to play outdoors at this time if you follow these precautions:
 - Talk to your children in a reassuring way about what they can do to help keep themselves and others healthy, including regular hand washing for soap and water with at least 20 seconds, not touching their eyes, nose or mouth, coughing/sneezing into their elbow or a tissue, and throwing tissues away after use.
 - You can go for a walk on trails or in parks if it's not crowded and you're able to maintain a distance of at least 2 meters from other families.

- Playgrounds should not be used if crowded. Playground equipment could pose a risk, especially because some children will find it hard to avoid touching their eyes, nose or mouth, even if instructed not to.
- Children’s hands should be washed before you head out and right after you return home. Hand sanitizer should be used if you’re driving to a location and can’t wash their hands immediately before or after the activity. This should be done regardless of whether your child was wearing gloves or mittens.
- Avoid using public washrooms and if that’s not possible, wipe down surfaces with sanitizer wipes before and after using.

16) Are school related activities impacted by this closure? (Sports, Drama, Home & School meetings,etc.)

- All activities during this closure are cancelled.

17) Where do I go to get more information about school closures?

- Individuals with question relating to schools and early learning and child-care facilities may call 1-844-288-3888.

18) Will Provincial Assessments be impacted by this closure?

- This provincial decision will be made by the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development and we will communicate this decision as soon as it is known.

19) Are there resources for me to access information on how to talk to my children about COVID-19?

- Resources have been posted on the Anglophone South School district [website](#).

20) I’m going to take an international trip with my children during the closure. Will my children be allowed to return to school when we get back?

- The exclusion period is still in effect. Your child will not be allowed to return to school for 14 calendar days following your arrival home. Please refer to the [provincial guidelines](#) on travelling during this time for more information.