



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

April 16, 2020

Dear parents/guardians,

RE: Supporting students for the remainder of the 2019-20 school year

Face-to-face learning in all Yukon K-12 public schools has been suspended for the remainder of the 2019-20 school year. Starting today, April 16, students will resume learning from home through alternative and distance learning opportunities through their schools.

Supporting student learning for the remainder of the school year

School staff have prioritized the essential learning that needs to be covered for the remainder of the school year based on the guidelines identified in the Yukon Learning Continuity Requirements. We will continue to share this up-to-date document at yukon.ca/en/yukon-learning-continuity-requirements, or talk to your local school about getting a paper version of this document.

The Yukon Learning Continuity Requirements outline the number of hours of schoolwork students will be provided with for the rest of this school year.

- Kindergarten-Grade 6 students will have five hours per week of schoolwork assigned,
- Grades 7-9 students will have 10 hours per week of schoolwork assigned; and
- Grades 10-12 will have about three hours of schoolwork assigned per course per week.

You should by now have heard from your child's teachers about how they will provide learning opportunities for the rest of the school year. These learning plans are flexible and consider varying options for learning and the needs of each student, family and their school communities. This includes considering families that have different levels of technology access available for their child. Along with digital and online learning options, schools are prepared to also offer phone, paper-based or other learning opportunities. If you have not yet heard from your school, please ensure the school has your current contact information.

We do not expect parents/guardians to homeschool their child. During this time, teachers will continue to:

- provide families with supports, resources and learning materials to help students complete the essential learning standards for the remainder of the school year;

- maintain regular communication with students and families to ensure student learning needs are being met;
- assess learning; and
- provide final reports cards.

Parents who wish to extend student learning at home can explore additional suggested resources and activities at yukon.ca/en/health-and-wellness/covid-19/continuing-student-learning-home.

Supporting rural and Yukon First Nations students

School staff are working to provide a variety of learning opportunities to meet students' needs, recognizing that learning will look different than regular classes. This includes collaborating with partners in local communities, including:

- Yukon First Nations governments and organizations;
- Community Education Liaison Coordinators; and
- Education Support Workers,

School staff will continue to communicate and work with Yukon First Nations served by their school to support the needs of their citizens. We are also working with Yukon First Nations to ensure Yukon First Nations ways of knowing, doing and being continue to be part of student learning this school year.

Supporting mental health and wellbeing

We understand this is a challenging time for students and families. We have attached some information to support families and adults in talking and sharing information about COVID-19 with children and youth. This document can be found online at yukon.ca/en/talking-and-sharing-kids-and-families-covid-19, or you can talk to your school about getting a paper version.

The Government of Yukon has also published a list of counselling and crisis supports at yukon.ca/en/health-and-wellness/covid-19/find-covid-19-counselling-and-crisis-support (also attached).

Accessing learning materials and belongings left at school

We want to ensure students and families have supports and materials for students to continue their learning at home, including personal belongings that may still be at their school.

We need to ensure that this is done in a way that protects the health and safety of students, families and communities and follow the most current health measures issued by Yukon's Chief Medical Officer of Health. Each school will provide more information to students and families on how they can receive learning packages and pick up any personal belongings remaining at school as these plans are determined.

2020-21 school calendars

The 2020-21 school calendars for all Yukon schools are available online. At this time, the decision to suspend face-to-face classes for the 2019-20 school year has not affected the start date or other key dates for the 2020-21 school year. School calendars for all Yukon schools are available at yukon.ca/en/education-and-schools/kindergarten-grade-12/find-school-holiday-dates, or talk to your school about getting a paper version of the school calendars..

Where to get updates

This is an unprecedented time, and we continue to act based on the recommendations of Yukon's Chief Medical Officer of Health to limit the spread of COVID-19. We will continue to provide 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.

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 that reads "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