



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

Updated April 04, 2020

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 Messenger, Twitter, Facebook and the ASD-S 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 recommended precautions from the Department of Health with respect to the ongoing COVID-19 situation.

The health and safety of our students and staff remains our primary priority.

1) How long will schools be closed?

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 due to the ongoing COVID-19 Global Pandemic. It is expected that schools will be closed throughout the end of the 2019-2020 school year, unless there is a significant change in the COVID-19 situation.

2) Will this closure result in an extended school year into the summer?

The Department has confirmed that the school year will not be extended.

3) 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. 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.

4) Will the closure impact my Child and Youth Team appointments?

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 one of the numbers below:

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

5) Can my child connect with their School Guidance Counsellor or Guidance Teacher?

Our School Guidance Counsellors and Guidance Teachers are now offering telephone support to K-12 students and families. There are three dedicated phone lines for students and families to call:

Hampton Education Centre (Sussex to Kennebecasis Valley) - 506-349-6241
Saint John Education Centre (Saint John, Grand Bay-Westfield, St Martins) - 506-349-7663
St. Stephen Education Centre (St. George to the Fundy Isles) - 506-343-5263

More information regarding remote access to School Guidance staff can be found here:
<http://web1.nbed.nb.ca/sites/ASD-S/news/Lists/Posts/Post.aspx?ID=840>

6) 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](#).

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

The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development has collaborated with the School Districts to develop a Continuity of Learning Plan. The plan includes recommendations for continued home learning for students by grade level.

Weekly check-ins from your child's school will maintain social connection to the school and provide support regarding the home learning material.

We recognize that home life looks very different from one family to the next and understand that following these recommendations consistently may be a challenge for some at this time.

There are many opportunities to continue learning outside of the classroom, and we hope these recommendations will help your family feel empowered to engage in continued learning at home. The plan can be found here: <http://web1.nbed.nb.ca/sites/ASD-S/news/Lists/Posts/Post.aspx?ID=841>

Additional learning supports can be found at:

- GNB Family Resource page:
https://www2.gnb.ca/content/gnb/en/departments/education/learning_at_home.html
- ASD-S website: http://web1.nbed.nb.ca/sites/ASD-S/Pages/At_Home_Resources.aspx
- Electronic Library New Brunswick:
<https://www2.gnb.ca/content/gnb/en/departments/nbpl/electronic.html>

8) What about students who do not have computers or Internet at home?

Teachers have been or will be in touch to check in with students to determine what access is available at home. Each school is taking steps to determine how best to deliver at-home student learning. This might include some online learning tools, no tech approaches, or other ways to continue student learning.

9) Can my child attend Co-Op or access Distance Learning?

Co-Op placements have been cancelled during the closure. Students who are enrolled in Distance Learning will be encouraged to continue as their personal circumstances permit.

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

There will be no April report cards. Students who were on track to progress to the next grade level as of January will do so.

11) Will Provincial Assessments be impacted by this closure?

The remaining 2019-20 provincial assessments will not take place, except for the Grade 12 French Oral Proficiency Interviews. The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development is developing a process to offer this assessment to interested students in an online or telephone format on a voluntary basis.

12) I'm a Newcomer or International Student – who can I contact for information about my stay?

Please contact Lynn MacDonald, Newcomer & International Student Coordinator at Lynn.MacDonald@nbed.nb.ca

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

This closure will not affect students who are on a successful graduation path. All Grade 12 students who had at least 12 credits as of January will graduate in June 2020 and receive a high school diploma.

Transcripts will indicate the student was "enrolled" in current semester courses, and they will all count towards the required number of courses for graduation completion.

Grade 12 students who plan to graduate but have not passed the English Language Proficiency Assessment (ELPA) will not be required to complete this assessment and the transcript will indicate that the ELPA was "not required".

14) 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. The NB government will work with post-secondary institutions so this interruption in formal schooling does not prevent students from being eligible for admission to post-secondary studies in the upcoming school year.

15) Will this closure affect graduation ceremonies and prom events?

No decisions have been made at this time regarding graduation ceremonies or events related to graduation. Decisions on such activities will be made in the coming weeks, based on direction from Public Health.

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

All school trips have been cancelled for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year. All activities are cancelled during the closure.

17) Will I be refunded fees I paid for trips and activities?

School administrators are working to refund fees. Refunds for school trips is the priority and you will hear from your school regarding issuing these refunds.

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

No, based on the recommendation from Public Health and while we are in a State of Emergency, access to schools is not permitted. If an extenuating circumstance exists such as medication inside a school please contact your principal. We hope to communicate a plan to allow for students to clean out their desk or lockers in the coming weeks.

19) Are school facilities available for rent during the closure?

No. Schools are closed to students and the public.

20) 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:

- 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.