



Yellowknife Catholic Schools

Box 1830, Yellowknife, NT, X1A 2P4 - Phone (867) 766-7400 - Fax (867) 766-7401 - www.ycs.nt.ca

May 2, 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians:

As mentioned in my last letter, as Superintendent and as a parent, I understand that the recent news of a COVID-19 outbreak in a Yellowknife school is of great concern. I want to assure you once again that the matter is being handled with the health, wellness and safety of all students and staff as the top priority.

The administration of Yellowknife Catholic Schools has been working very closely with the Office of the Chief Public Health Officer (OCPHO) to comply with all directives. The OCPHO is the lead in all matters of public health, and as such, we are following the direction given by the OCPHO.

Although at this time the only confirmed cases of COVID-19 continue to be linked to NJ Macpherson School, **recognizing the interconnectedness of students in our community, the Chief Public Health Officer has announced that all Yellowknife, Dettah and N'Dilo schools will be closed until further notice. This is a proactive step to mitigate further spread in the community in this age group.**

The most recent information on public health advisories can be found at <https://www.hss.gov.nt.ca/en/advisories>.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) have also been made available at [Questions and Answers | GNWT's Response to COVID-19 \(gov.nt.ca\)](#). These FAQs will be updated regularly by the OCPHO.

Yellowknife Catholic Schools is in regular contact with the Department of Education, Culture and Employment to ensure that all necessary steps are followed to keep our students and staff safe and to provide additional resources, such as technology, to support the continuity of learning for our students.

Yellowknife Catholic Schools recognizes that families will be eager to learn the details around remote learning for students. Yellowknife Catholic Schools staff are currently working to ensure the structures and resources are in place for learning at home, with the expectation that remote learning will begin for all students on Wednesday, May 5.

An update with additional information specific to your child's school and remote learning plan will be shared with you 4:00pm, Monday, May 3rd.

Where Learning Lights the Spirit

Où l'apprentissage reflète l'Esprit

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Mindful that changes to daily routines and changes to the supports provided through schools can be difficult for some students, below is a list of mental health supports students may wish to explore:

- Child and Youth Care Counsellors
 - o WCS
 - MF Lavoie mariefrance.lavoie@ycs.nt.ca
 - Emily Lodge emily.lodge@ycs.nt.ca
 - o ESJS
 - Alexis Ruettnauer alexis.ruettnauer@ycs.nt.ca
 - Kiera Hoekstra kiera.hoekstra@ycs.nt.ca
 - o ESPHS
 - Ayesha Khan Ghouri ayasha.khanghourri@ycs.nt.ca
- **BreathingRoom** is a newly launched e-mental health program for youth aged 13-24. It supports youth and young adults in learning new ways to manage stress, depression and anxiety, as well as strengthening their existing coping skills. NWT youth can access this program at <https://app.breathingroom.me/register?code=XXQTGPUE>
- NWT Help Line – available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. It is 100% free, confidential and anonymous. Call 1-800-661-0844.
- Kid’s Help Phone – young people needing to talk to someone can call the Kid’s Help Phone at 1-800-668-6868 or go to www.kidshelpphone.ca
- The [NWT Community Counselling Program](#) – is available free-of-charge to every NWT resident, in every region of the NWT. It helps people deal with a variety of issues including family violence, mental health issues and addictions.

As always, we will continue to provide you with updates as soon as possible. We continue to urge you to follow all personal health and safety measures outlined by Public Health and direct any inquiries about self-isolation to ProtectNWT and 811.

Sincerely,



Simone Gessler
Superintendent