



MEMORANDUM

To: Parents & Guardians

From: Director, pamināwasowin Child Care Centre

Date: March 15, 2020

RE: Important Update – COVID-19 and Child Care Centre Operations

Parents & Guardians:

Considering the growing concerns over COVID-19 (Coronavirus), FNUniv Senior Management and a team of administrative and academic leadership have convened a planning committee to ensure we work towards keeping students, staff, guests and children safe at our campuses.

Regular working hours of pamināwasowin Child Care Centre will continue. We take guidance on health matters from our federal, provincial and local health authorities, including our partner the Ministry of Education-Early Years Branch.

We would like to share this information with parents & guardians on our response to COVID-19:

- The COVID-19 virus is a new respiratory illness that spreads with close person-to-person contact. There is no approved vaccine at present. On March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared the spread of this virus as a 'pandemic.' WHO defines a pandemic "*as a worldwide spread of a new disease for which most people do not have immunity*";
- To date, there are four (4) **presumptive** cases and one (1) **confirmed** case of COVID-19 in Saskatchewan. Provincial and national health agencies emphasize the risk in Saskatchewan is considered **low**;
- At present, the university remains open and academic and business operations continue as usual;
- There is a temporary suspension of classes effective Monday, March 16th through to Thursday, March 19th. All classes will resume on Friday, March 20th through distance delivery of all classes until the end of semester;
- We are ensuring that frequently touched areas and surfaces are prioritized for enhancing cleaning;



- We have provided signage at all campuses about the new virus and preventative personal hygiene;
- We continue to work on a contingency plan for academic and administrative continuity;
- We continue to consult with the University of Regina and monitor reports from health authorities;

According to several resources, the best method to protect your children and yourself against coronavirus is to practice everyday preventive actions, including:

- When coughing and sneezing:
 - cover your mouth and nose with the crease of your elbow or tissues to reduce the spread of droplets,
 - immediately dispose of any tissues you have used into the garbage as soon as possible and wash your hands afterwards,
- Wash your hands often with soap and water; if soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer;
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands;
- Maintain safe food practices;
- Avoid close contact with people who may be ill;
- Avoid close physical contact, such as handshaking and embracing as forms of acknowledgment.

We are putting in place several proactive measures to protect the children and employee's well-being.

Child Care Cleaning - We have been proactive in ordering additional supplies, anticipating the need for hand sanitizer, and increased use of hand soap and paper towels in support of handwashing. As part of our regular routine, enhanced cleaning practices (cleaning & disinfecting doorknobs, toys and surfaces) are implemented as needed in response to an outbreak.

Field Trips/Guest Visitors - All daycare field trips have been cancelled. At this time, no guest visitors, students or volunteers are allowed within the childcare. These difficult decisions are being made to protect children and staff from unnecessary risk of exposure.

Supporting and Talking to Children - Concern over this new virus can make children and families anxious. Children look to adults for guidance on how to react to stressful events and need factual, age appropriate information. Teaching children positive preventive measures, talking with them about their fears, and giving them a sense of some control over their risk of infection can help reduce anxiety. Here is a resource to help you speak with your child. <https://childmind.org/article/talking-to-kids-about-the-coronavirus/>



Travel: The Government of Canada recommends avoiding all travel or non-essential travel. All travellers should self-monitor for symptoms.

Please review the following websites for more information on COVID-19.

Public Health Agency of Canada

<https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/coronavirus-disease-covid-19.html>

Saskatchewan Government Public Health

<https://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/health-care-administration-and-provider-resources/treatment-procedures-and-guidelines/emerging-public-health-issues/2019-novel-coronavirus>

University of Regina

<https://www.uregina.ca/hr/hsw/Coronavirus/index.html>

If your child(ren) or you are sick or feel unwell, please stay at home. Inform the Child Care Centre Director of your child's absence. If you are concerned about your child(ren)'s symptoms, call 811 – the Saskatchewan Healthline -- for guidance about seeking medical attention.

Your child's health and safety is our priority. We will continue to provide regular updates as they arise.

If you have further questions, please contact:

Gordana Kolic
Director, pamināwasowin Child Care Centre
phone: 306.790.5950 ext.3505
email: gkolic@fnuniv.ca

Bonnie Rockthunder
Senior Communications Officer
phone: 306.790.5950 ext.2510
email: comm@fnuniv.ca