

March 18, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

In light of the Premier's message on March 17 declaring a state of emergency within the province of Ontario in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, we want to provide you with the most up-to-date information we have and how it relates to the operations of our schools and the school board.

Here's what we know as of today, Wednesday, March 18.

### **School Closures**

In an extraordinary effort to contain the spread of COVID-19, the [Ontario Government announced on Thursday, March 12 that all Ontario schools will be closed](#) from Saturday, March 14, reopening on Monday, April 6. The Minister of Education has not advised us of any further extension to this closure at this time.

### **Central Board Office**

The administrative office, located at 225 Central Ave. West in Brockville, will be closed to the public as of Friday, March 20 until Sunday, April 5. There will be reduced staff on-site to ensure the core business functions that cannot be done remotely are taken care of. Given the reduced availability of employees at the office, please direct your inquiries by telephone 1-800-267-7131 or by email at [inquiries@ucdsb.on.ca](mailto:inquiries@ucdsb.on.ca).

### **Childcare within UCDSB**

All childcare facilities that operate within UCDSB schools are closed during the school closure period. Please direct any questions regarding childcare services to your provider.

### **Community Use of Schools**

All third-party use of our schools is cancelled during this time of closure, that includes programs such as Boys and Girls club, sports and other activities. Please direct any questions regarding these activities to the event/activity/program organizers.

**John McAllister**  
Chair



**Stephen Sliwa**  
Director

### **Co-op Programs**

All co-op programs have been suspended during the school closures.

### **Dual Credit Programs**

The UCDSB is currently reviewing how/if dual credit programs for some of our secondary students will continue during this time of school closure. More information will be communicated directly to those involved in those programs.

### **E-learning**

E-learning for students that are already enrolled can continue with their courses during this time of school closures.

### **Field Trips**

All field trips are cancelled or postponed until May 2020. Schools will contact parents and students who are impacted by these changes.

### **Learning Resources for Students**

The provincial government is assembling online learning resources for students and families to access. Once we receive this information, we will share it on the UCDSB website, via email and social media. The UCDSB is also looking into assembling additional electronic resources to support student learning. We are working to have these materials ready online, on or before Tuesday, March 24.

### **Ontario Federation of School Athletic Associations (OFSSA) Events**

[All OFSSA athletic competitions planned for the rest of March have been cancelled.](#)

### **EQAO Assessments Cancelled**

Given the school closure period and the range of uncertainties beyond that point, the Ministry of Education has cancelled all EQAO assessments, including the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT) for Grade 10 students, for the remainder of this school year. **For students who are graduating in the 2019-20 school year, the literacy**

**graduation requirement will be waived.** Students who are not graduating this school year will have the opportunity to write the OSSLT in the upcoming 2020-21 school year.

### **UCDSB Board of Trustees Meetings**

As of March 16, the Board of Trustees meeting scheduled for Wednesday, March 25 will proceed virtually. More information on how the public can access this meeting will come shortly.

### **Additional Resources**

We have created a section on our website that will house all the [school-board information related to COVID-19](#), including [how to talk to your children](#) about the situation and [Frequently Asked Questions](#). We encourage you to check this resource regularly.

### **Public Health Information**

For the latest information on the status of COVID-19 in your region, the province, and specific actions that are being asked of the public, please refer to these public health resources:

- [Eastern Ontario Health Unit](#)
- [Leeds, Grenville & Lanark District Health Unit](#)
- [Ontario Ministry of Health](#)
- [Health Agency of Canada](#)

We want our families to be healthy, both physically and mentally, during these changing and uncertain times. We will continue to work to get accurate information and share that with you as quickly as possible in order to provide everyone peace of mind.

We will update through our website, social media channels and directly with families through My Family Room when new information becomes available.

Thank you,

Stephen Sliwa  
Director of Education  
Upper Canada District School Board

**John McAllister**  
Chair



**Stephen Sliwa**  
Director