



# Catholic Independent Schools of Vancouver Archdiocese

*Office of the Superintendent*

March 18, 2020

Dear priests, staff, parents, guardians, and students,

My prayers and those of our office go out to the members of our community directly affected by COVID-19. The challenge of dealing with this disease and its consequences will make the following weeks and months difficult for all of us. It is important to remember however that there will ultimately be an end to this outbreak. As friends, families, schools and Church our task is to work together with Christ to help each other safely to this end.

The letter from Education Minister Rob Fleming which I asked our principals to circulate to you yesterday outlines in a broad way how the Ministry of Education is guiding the schools in British Columbia through this crisis. I ask you please to carefully read this letter as it addresses some of the questions you are likely to have regarding our young people's education after spring break.

All schools have been directed by the Provincial Health Officer Dr. Bonnie Henry to immediately suspended in-class learning which means our students will not be in our schools after spring break. In consultation with the Ministry of Education, the CISVA Superintendent's Office and our schools, plans are currently being developed that will ensure continuity of learning. Perhaps most importantly, Minister Fleming has given us all the challenge that "all students on track to move to the next grade will do so in the fall" and "every student eligible to graduate from Grade 12 this year will graduate."<sup>1</sup>

We will be receiving more information over the next days and weeks and our office is coordinating with the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Health, the Federation of Independent Schools Association and our schools to be ready for student learning after spring break. I know that you have many more questions. We are working hard to work with our many partners to determine the appropriate and accurate answers. Coordinated effort takes time and I thank you for your patience. It is our intention to create a FAQ that will be mailed to you and posted on our website<sup>2</sup> over the next few days that will address many of your concerns.

I am asking our hard-working school administrators to allow teachers to rest during spring break with a minimum of interruption. The first days after break will provide enough time to prepare for

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<sup>1</sup> Minister of Education Rob Fleming letter dated March 17, 2020

<sup>2</sup> <https://cisva.bc.ca/coronavirus/>

the continuity of instruction in each school. These will be busy days and we need all our school personnel to be rested and healthy.

I urge you strongly to continue to follow Ministry of Health guidelines to keep you and your families healthy.<sup>3</sup> Please continue to pray for all those affected by COVID-19 and those caring for them in homes and hospitals.

Yours in Christ,

Deacon Henk Luyten, Ed.D.  
Superintendent

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<sup>3</sup> <http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19>