

Dear Parents,

With the recent news coverage relating to the Novel Coronavirus that has developed in Wuhan, China, we have been in touch with Ottawa Public Health (OPH). OPH is watching the situation closely. Please visit [Ottawa Public Health's Novel Coronavirus web page](#), where you can find information on this virus and regular updates, as well as other useful links. You will also find useful tips on how to best prevent the spread of germs.

The risk of getting coronavirus is still **low** for Canada, and for Canadian travelers. For all families, including those that may be returning from overseas travel, please follow these recommendations from Ottawa Public Health to help reduce the spread of germs including the flu and the novel coronavirus:

- Stay home if you are sick
- Wash your hands often with soap and water, or use hand sanitizer
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth unless you have just washed your hands
- Cover your coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your arm, not your hand
- If you are ill and must visit a healthcare provider, call ahead or tell them right away when you arrive that you have a respiratory illness and wear a mask while waiting to be seen
- Avoid visiting people in hospitals or long-term care centres if you are sick
- Get your flu shot

Here are more tips on [how to stop the spread of germs](#) including the flu and the novel coronavirus. Please take the time to visit the OPH website and I suggest following OPH on Twitter and/or Facebook for the latest updates.

At school, we will be reminding students daily to follow proper handwashing technique and to cover coughs. We will be adding signs around the school as reminders for students, staff and visitors as well.