



Dear NLPS staff,

Yesterday, amid a growing number of COVID-19 cases in B.C., the Ministry of Education (MoE) made the decision to suspend in-class instruction for all of B.C.'s kindergarten to grade 12 students. I appreciate that this decision, while both unprecedented and unsettling, was also, inescapable.

The mandate from the Minister of Education, Rob Fleming, is clear, while the MoE will suspend on-site learning, schools will continue to provide educational programming for students through a variety of delivery methods.

The news has generated a myriad of questions and we are currently exploring the possibilities of how we will provide educational programming for the, approximately, 15,000 students that attend Nanaimo Ladysmith Public Schools. Understandably, we are all feeling a sense of uncertainty as we begin to imagine a future that provides for the continuity of learning while keeping our schools and community safe.

You will have many questions. Your questions are valid and you are not alone. There are many district staff asking the same questions. While I do not have the answers for you today, I can assure you that the district will provide more clarity in the days ahead.

It will take time for staff to prepare educational programming by distance and there is no expectation for schools to be "up and running" once staff return from March Break. It will take time. Staff presently on March Break need to take care of themselves, their families and friends and continue to get some much needed rest and relaxation.

To keep you and your family safe, continue to observe social distancing guidelines when venturing outside and do not attend functions with 50 people or more. Should you have any novel coronavirus health related questions, the province has launched their new [COVID-19 symptom self-assessment tool](#) as an alternative to calling 8-1-1. The online tool asks a number of questions to help residents determine if they need to receive further testing.

The district will continue to provide regular updates on the district website.

Thank you for your patience during these difficult times.

Sincerely,

Scott Saywell  
Superintendent/CEO