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**To:** Horizon Families & Staff  
**From:** Kevin C. Garinger, Director of Education  
**Date:** March 16, 2020  
**Re:** All Saskatchewan Schools to Close - Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update

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Good afternoon, everyone.

I am writing with updates regarding this morning's memo and the [Government of Saskatchewan's](#) announcement that all Saskatchewan PreK-12 schools will be closed effective Friday, March 20, 2020. As per the Government of Saskatchewan announcement, and meetings with Ministry of Education personnel the following points were made. Please note that we are continuing to get further direction from the Ministry of Education in terms of the exact details regarding the following points noted below.

- School closures are set to last indefinitely.
- These measures apply to daycares co-located with schools.
- Every student will receive a final grade based on their current grade, and students will progress to their next grade level next year.
- Every student who is eligible to graduate from Grade 12 this year will graduate.
- The Ministry of Education and school divisions will work with Saskatchewan's post-secondary institutions to adapt entry requirements.
- For the rest of the scheduled school year, the Ministry of Education will work with school divisions and Saskatchewan teachers to implement a supplemental curriculum program through distance and alternative learning methods.
  - While this supplemental curriculum will have no impact on final grades, it will ensure that students seeking to continue learning have the resources necessary to do so.
  - A provincial Response Planning Team is being organized to include personnel from across the education sector. This team will be working to finalize these and other details in the days and weeks ahead.
- All Horizon staff will continue to be responsible for their respective roles.
  - Exactly how that will look in the days to come will be determined by senior leadership and supervisors.
  - We will be communicating further details to staff in the coming days.

As I have previously shared, between the period of March 16 and Thursday, March 19, classes will wind down. Students remaining in class during this period still face a low risk of exposure to COVID-19, as indicated by Saskatchewan's Chief Medical Officer. However, families who are able to keep children home should do so immediately. The wind-down period between now and Thursday, March 19, will give families



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time to plan for the suspension of classes. This preventative measure means reducing the risk of COVID-19 transmission in our communities.

I will remind you once again of the Government of Saskatchewan's resources available on [Saskatchewan.ca/coronavirus](https://saskatchewan.ca/coronavirus) and [horizonsd.ca](https://horizonsd.ca), including the following steps to keep yourself and others safe:

- Practice proper cough and sneezing etiquette (into the bend of your elbow);
- 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 large crowds and practice social distancing (do not shake hands, hug, or kiss);
- Practice social distancing;
- Stay home when sick; and
- Self-isolate for 14 days upon return from out-of-country trips

Thank you for your immediate attention to this matter. We will continue to share further updates as this situation develops and continue to work together to keep our children and ourselves safe.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Kevin C. Garinger', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Kevin C. Garinger, B. Ed, M.A. Ed  
Director of Education/CEO  
Horizon School Division No. 205