January 27, 2020

On Sunday, January 26, Christine Elliott, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health, and Stephen Lecce, Minister of Education, issued the following statement in response to the first presumptive case of the Wuhan novel coronavirus in Ontario and following a briefing of the province's directors of education:

"The health and well-being of Ontarians, including and especially our students and school staff, is our number one priority. To that end, earlier today Dr. David Williams, Chief Medical Officer of Health, and Dr. Barbara Yaffe, Associate Chief Medical Officer of Health, briefed Ontario's directors of education on the province's extensive protocols to monitor, detect and contain any cases of the Wuhan novel coronavirus.

Ontario continues to work directly alongside our partners at the Public Health Agency of Canada and local public health units to monitor the situation closely. Newly strengthened protocols for identification and control are working to keep the public safe.

We want to assure students, parents and school communities that officials at the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Education are working together in close cooperation with our partners in both the education and health care sectors to ensure the continued safety and well-being of students and staff."

To help educate Ontarians about Wuhan novel coronavirus, how they can protect themselves and what to do if they suspect they may be at risk, the province has launched a dedicated webpage (ontario.ca/coronavirus).

The province’s website provides information about the Wuhan novel coronavirus including links to the most recent updates from the province.

The Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board (DPCDSB) looks to our regional, provincial and federal health authorities for direction on public health matters and is in close contact with these authorities as we monitor this health issue. We will communicate any updates to DPCDSB staff and trustees through Staff Information Bulletins like this one, which we will distribute via board email. The information we share with you will be similar to that which we will be sharing with parents/guardians and community members through our social media channels Twitter, Facebook (@DPCDSBSchools) and Instagram (@dpcdsb.schools).

Note that we have also set up a webpage that can be accessed through a linked button on the main DPCDSB webpage (www.dpcdsb.org), DP24 and all DPCDSB school websites. Additionally, the site can be accessed through the yellow ALERT banner that runs across the top of all DPCDSB webpages.

Thank you for your attention to this important community health and safety information.