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March 4, 2020

Dear School Administrators:

Re: Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) and Travel from Iran

I am writing to provide you with another update on the COVID-19 situation as it relates to your role as school administrators. Since my last letter to you on February 28, 2020, Iran has experienced a significant increase in local cases of COVID-19, and given the mobility of our population, we have identified a small number of people in Toronto who have contracted COVID-19 after travel in Iran.

The Public Health Agency of Canada is now advising that people with a recent history of travel in Iran should self-isolate for a period of 14 days after their last day in Iran. This is similar to the advice being given to individuals who have travelled to Hubei Province, China. Toronto residents who have travelled in these areas are asked to call Toronto Public Health at 416-338-7600 within 24 hours of when they arrive in Toronto to receive support and further instructions.

I would encourage you to stay informed about changing travel advisories as the global situation continues to evolve. Current travel advice and advisories related to COVID-19 are available on the [Government of Canada](http://www.government.ca) website.

Given the increasing COVID-19 activity around the world, we are actively working with our provincial and federal health partners to plan for the potential of local spread. I have been asked what actions schools can take to prepare themselves if our local situation changes. Sector-specific guidance is being created through various planning tables. There are recommendations based on the current COVID-19 situation for school administrators for the Kindergarten to Grade 12 population, which were recently released and are available online at: <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection/health-professionals/guidance-schools-childcare-programs.html>. French translation of this resource is available on this site.

We continue to carefully monitor this evolving situation, and encourage you to stay informed by regularly reviewing credible information sources such as our website www.Toronto.ca/coronavirus. You can also call Toronto Public Health at 416-338-7600, Monday to Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., and on weekends from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Translation is available in many languages.

I will provide further updates as new information is confirmed. In the meantime, please do not hesitate to be in touch if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Eileen".

Dr. Eileen de Villa
Medical Officer of Health