

## NOTICE TO FAMILIES OF KPDSB STUDENTS

### **Travel Advisory for Students for Travel Outside of Northwestern Ontario**

**November 23, 2020**

On November 16, 2020, the Northwestern Health Unit (NWHU) updated their travel recommendation and are urging the public not to travel to or from Manitoba unless it is for an essential purpose, as well as recommending that residents avoid all non-essential travel outside of Northwestern Ontario ([click here to see the November 16 media release](#)). On November 18, 2020, the NWHU issued an additional media release stating there is an increased COVID-19 risk in Kenora region and urging the public to practise prevention measures as COVID-19 case counts increase in the Kenora region ([click here to see the November 18 media release](#)).

We are asking all families to please follow the Northwestern Health Unit's recommendations of avoiding all non-essential travel outside of Northwestern Ontario. We recognize that families may have to travel for essential reasons (ie. medical reasons and human rights related reasons such as disability or family status accommodations), however, as a school board, we have a responsibility to do all that we can to keep our students and staff safe during the pandemic.

Effective today, November 23, 2020, we are issuing a travel advisory for students to promote student and staff safety. **Should your child travel outside of Northwestern Ontario for either essential or non-essential reasons, they are not to attend any school board properties for 14 calendar days upon return and must be able to pass the [self-assessment](#) prior to returning to school (for this advisory, Northwestern Ontario is from Marathon to the Manitoba border).** If there are extenuating circumstances for your family, you are encouraged to reach out to your school principal to discuss. Academic support will be provided for families whose children are not able to attend school due to this advisory.

We are asking all families to please be mindful that COVID-19 is still with us and that different areas of the province and the country can have different levels of the virus in the community. The health and safety of our students and staff is very important to us and that is why we are taking the protection of our staff and students from the COVID-19 virus seriously. The safest option to prevent the spread is to stay in the area of your home community or to stay in the region as per travel advisories and follow all public health protocols.

Our decision to implement a travel advisory for students is based on current medical advice. Our messaging will remain consistent with recommendations from the Northwestern Health Unit as updated. If you have any questions regarding this advisory, please reply to this email or contact your school principal.

Thank you for your assistance in protecting the health and safety of our staff and students. Your efforts during these difficult times are appreciated. It will take all of us together to keep our communities and schools safe.

Sincerely,



Sherri-Lynne Pharand, Director of Education



Cecile Marcino, Chair of the Board