



## Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association

Box 2064, Suite 1804  
20 Eglinton Avenue West  
Toronto, Ontario M4R 1K8  
T. 416.932.9460 F. 416.932.9459  
[ocsta@ocsta.on.ca](mailto:ocsta@ocsta.on.ca) [www.ocsta.on.ca](http://www.ocsta.on.ca)

Beverley Eckensweiler, *President*  
Michelle Griepsma, *Vice President*  
Nick Milanetti, *Executive Director*

March 12, 2020

### MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Chairpersons and Directors of Education  
- All Catholic District School Boards

**FROM:** Beverley Eckensweiler, President

**SUBJECT:** School Closing after March Break to Manage COVID-19 Virus

---

On Thursday March 12, 2020 at roughly 4 p.m., the Premier and Minister of Education made the following statement:

“The health and well-being of Ontarians is our government's number one priority. Since we first learned of COVID-19 as an emerging public health issue, Ontario has been diligently monitoring the developing situation to protect the health and well-being of all Ontarians. We have also taken decisive action to ensure the province's health care system is positioned to be ready for any scenario. Given the latest developments both internationally and here at home, today we are taking further action.

Based on advice from Dr. David Williams, Ontario's Chief Medical Officer of Health and the experts at the COVID-19 Command Table, the Minister of Education has issued a Ministerial Order to close all publicly funded schools in Ontario for two weeks following March break, in response to the emergence in Ontario of COVID-19. This order was approved by the Lieutenant Governor in Council.

This means that Ontario schools have been ordered to remain closed from March 14 through to April 5, 2020. We recognize the significant impact this decision will have on families, students, schools, as well as the broader community, but this precaution is necessary to keep people safe.”

### Next Steps:

The government is now in the process of developing a plan for the continuation of learning. Details will be announced over the coming days.

OCSTA will be monitoring this situation closely and will provide our boards with further information as soon as it becomes available.

Please do not hesitate to contact me or Nick Milanetti if you have any questions or concerns.