



April 7, 2020

Ref: 218797

Thank you for taking the time to write and share your questions, comments and ideas with me. I appreciate your patience as we continue to work under the direction of our Provincial Health Office to forge a path forward during the COVID-19 pandemic. As the Minister of Education, I would like to assure you that the health and safety of students, staff and their families is a top priority for government.

This is a challenging time filled with uncertainty for everyone, both in our province and around the world. The Ministry of Education is working with public and independent schools, First Nations, Metis Nations BC, as well as education stakeholders to ensure continued learning opportunities for children throughout British Columbia. The Ministry's planning is guided by these four principles:

1. Ensuring a healthy and safe environment for all students, families and employees.
2. Providing the services needed to support children of our essential workers.
3. Supporting vulnerable students who may need special assistance.
4. Providing continuity of educational opportunities for all students.

These resources are available to assist in answering common questions you may have:

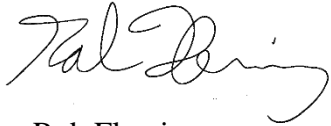
- For resources (e.g. free education activities for every age) to help keep kids learn at home while plans are being put in place, visit www.openschool.bc.ca/keeplearning/.
- For a comprehensive set of frequently asked questions that will be continuously updated, visit www.gov.bc.ca/SafeSchools/.
- For COVID-19 Provincial support and information, visit www.gov.bc.ca/COVID19.
- For COVID-19 guidance and recommendations from the Provincial Health Officer, visit [BC Pandemic Preparedness](http://BC.Pandemic.Preparedness).
- For non-health related COVID-19 questions (e.g. supports, programs, etc.), visit www.gov.bc.ca/covid19 or call **1-888-COVID19**. The provincial phone service has the latest information from the Ministry of Education and is available 7:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. Pacific Time.

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If you have questions specific to continued learning opportunities, I encourage you to contact your local school district or independent school authority to understand the approaches they are taking to support students and families in your community during this time.

Again, thank you for writing.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rob Fleming". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Rob" being more prominent than the last name "Fleming".

Rob Fleming
Minister