



# New Brunswick Teachers' Association

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## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Branch Presidents  
Members of Board of Directors  
Council Presidents

**COPY:** Teacher Counsellors  
NBTA Staff  
Kerry Leopkey, NBTF Executive Director  
Marcel Larocque, AEFNB Directeur général par intérim

**FROM:** Larry Jamieson, Executive Director

**DATE:** March 12, 2020

**RE: COVID-19 Pandemic**

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As you know, the COVID-19 or Coronavirus Pandemic out-break has become a serious concern around the world, with thousands of people infected, a growing number of fatalities, entire cities shut down and 290 million students out of school. We continue to closely monitor the situation and its impact on communities and education very closely.

During the past week, President Rick Cuming and staff have been encouraging the Minister and School Districts to prioritize and take all necessary measures to ensure the health and safety of teachers, students and other education staff. During this fast-developing situation, it is essential to access accurate information to protect ourselves and others and keep the virus from spreading.

I would advise all members to follow and adhere to the important advice from NB Public Health and the Public Health Agency of Canada on infection prevention and a control plan/measures for workplaces and communities that are outlined on their website link:

<https://www2.gnb.ca/content/gnb/en/departments/ocmoh.html>  
<https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health.html>

As reported by NB Public Health, *"The COVID-19 outbreak continues to evolve rapidly worldwide with more countries reporting cases and an overall increase in case numbers."* There has now been one reported COVID-19 case identified in New Brunswick.

NBTA has been weighing many factors involved in making decisions regarding current and future operational plans that are prudent and intended to mitigate the risks related to the Coronavirus pandemic as it

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continues to evolve. We will continue to be in communication with stakeholders and will provide updates as information is shared and decisions are made.

As a result, effective immediately, to protect and reduce the risk of infection and virus transmission, we are suspending all NBTA sponsored meetings, seminars, workshops and conferences organized and/or hosted by NBTA through to March 27<sup>th</sup> inclusive. This measure will be reassessed as relevant information becomes available and could be extended as circumstances warrant. This also constitutes an additional precaution to reduce risk in our schools and communities.

I would also advise our Branches and Councils to follow suit.



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Larry J. Jamieson  
Executive Director