



Southern Ontario Collegiate

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Update: COVID 19

This past week has been a very trying and difficult time for everyone in the SOC family. We are very much concerned about your health and wellbeing and are continuously working to ensure that the situation remains positive and comfortable for each and everyone of us. In addition to all the information available on the news and in social media, we would like you to pay special attention to the following steps:

- While we are not aware of any students who have travelled out of province for the March break, it is mandatory that if any such students do return, the office should be notified immediately while the student is advised to self-isolate for a period of 14 days. Email admin@mysoc.ca and alison.currie@mysoc.ca
- Effective immediately students are not allowed to visit other students at their various homestays or residences. You may not invite guests into your residence or homestay.
- Effective immediately students are not allowed to go out of their homestay/residence without permission.
- Should there be a compelling reason for students to leave their homestays/residence, they are required to notify their host/supervisor and receive approval before leaving their homestay/residence. Remember, you are potentially putting others at risk when you risk exposure to the virus' while you may not become ill, you risk spreading it to others.
- While students are able to go out for a walk, physical distances as recommended by the department of public health must be maintained. This means a distance of approximately 6 feet (2 metres) between people must be maintained. Sports therefore are not permitted.
- Please be considerate of everyone in your homestay. We are all in this together. Loud music, late hours, and unexplained absences are not acceptable.

- Use social media to keep in touch with family and friends
- Focus on learning. In addition to the materials provided by your teachers, there are numerous sites online to help you find information.

Your remote learning sessions with teachers begin today. You will be required to sign in to register your presence and to acknowledge the assignments. Please don't take this opportunity to continue your classes lightly. Many of you hope to graduate this year and attend university in the autumn. It is important that you continue to work hard. Don't hesitate to contact your teachers, Mrs. Currie (alison.currie@mysoc.ca) or Ms Trish (principal@mysoc.ca) if you need to talk. If you have questions about study permits etc. please contact Ms Maryam (admin@mysoc.ca). We will keep in contact with OUAC and universities for updates, but for the moment, they are closed.

We recognize that this is a challenging time. For many of us, these limitations are unprecedented, but they are crucial if we are to stop the spread of the COVID 19 virus. That requires the active participation of each one of us. The governments of Ontario and Canada have taken strong steps to ensure that safety and health are the priorities. Prime Minister Trudeau has been clear about what is needed to 'flatten the curve' of the spread of the virus: "Go home and stay home."

Ontario's Premier Doug Ford says "This is not the time for half measures. This decision was not made lightly, and the gravity of this order does not escape me, but as I have said since day one, we will and we must take all steps necessary to stop the spread of COVID-19."

Effective at midnight tonight, the Ontario government requires all but essential businesses to close and stay closed. We expect this to last for a minimum of two weeks and will keep you posted regularly.

We are very much concerned about your wellbeing. Focus on your learning, keep in touch with friends and family by telephone, email and social media. Email us immediately if you need advice or help. These are difficult times, and together we will work through them. Thank you for your consideration.