



September 23, 2020

Re: Vital Oxide Update

Dear Chinook Families,

I want to thank you and your children for your cooperation and understanding with the many sanitizing and cleaning protocols we have implemented in our schools and on our buses. As you know, Chinook is trying our best to limit the spread of the COVID-19 virus through heightened cleaning and sanitizing. I am relieved that, to date, we have had no children nor staff test positive for the virus.

However, there has been an unintended outcome that I am not very pleased about. We have been using a product called Vital Oxide on our buses and in some classrooms to sanitize points of contact. There is good news and bad news about it:

- Vital Oxide is one of the safest cleaning agents recommended by Canada Health. Vital Oxide is 99% water and is not harmful if it is absorbed through the skin or is ingested.
- Vital Oxide also reacts with dark cotton clothing. When the product is used on a continual basis, a residue develops and this has been causing a reaction with certain clothing dyes.

Some families have recently contacted us with photos of their children's clothing that have been discoloured. If your child has had this occur, please call 306-778-9200 or email info@chinooksd.ca and we will work with you to reimburse the cost of the garment.

Hearing and seeing some of the concerns, we have now implemented a plan to prevent the discolouration from occurring in the future. Moving forward, we have been speaking with our custodial and transportation staff and we will make the following changes:

- 1) We will lessen the volume and duration of cleaning with Vital Oxide, while still following sanitation guidelines to protect students and staff;
- 2) We will continue to concentrate on cleaning contact points; and
- 3) We will add an additional rinsing and wiping of all seats and desktops to eliminate the build up of the product.

We are also researching other sanitizing products that will not impact clothing. Further, we wish to clarify that Vital Oxide is deemed very safe. It has a material safety data sheet rating of zero in all categories of personal protective equipment, health, flammability and reactivity. It is used in schools and medical facilities across the country and is recognized as a safe and effective disinfectant for COVID-19.

Again, please accept my apologies, and if you have any items of clothing that require replacement due to Vital Oxide please let us know. Thank you for your continued cooperation and understanding. Take care and stay safe!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kyle McIntyre".

Kyle McIntyre
Director of Education