



May 22, 2020

Re-opening schools, continuing home-learning

The Province of Manitoba has announced in its phase II reopening plan that schools are open on June 1, 2020. This does not mean a return to business as usual – and in-class instruction en masse continues to be cancelled.

WSD's strategy

Winnipeg School Division began working on a reopening plan scheduled for September not long after the in-class cancellation. We intend to align the work we have already done with the intention of a gradual reopening in June. Please note that, while teachers and support staff will be back in schools on a day-to-day basis, students will only be allowed into the school by invitation. We request that parents and guardians refrain from entering the school unless invited to do so, by appointment, with their child's teacher.

Our goal is to provide a measured and strategic reopening. To do this, WSD school administrators are conducting a needs-analysis in their school by identifying students who require in-person support to ensure credit attainment, student assessments, clinical supports, course completion or other specific programming as required. Home learning will continue but will wind down throughout June as student assessment and transition planning begins.

Bussing

Regular school transportation is not available for June. Students who normally travel by school bus will require transportation to be arranged by their parent to attend in-school sessions. For our Inclusive Education students, other plans are being explored and your school will contact you with more information when it is available.

Cleaning

Custodial Services implemented a rigorous cleaning protocol in all of our schools and buildings prior to the cancellation of in-school classes, and these protocols are continuing to be enforced. We would like to assure our students and families that our schools are safe, and social distancing guidelines will be enforced.

Managing Illness

No person showing flu-like symptoms will be admitted entrance to any WSD school or building. This includes coughing, sneezing, sore throat, fever, shortness of breath or runny-nose. Anybody who has travelled outside of Manitoba (with some exceptions to provincial border locations) is required to self-quarantine for 14 days and will not be permitted into a WSD school or building. Parents are encouraged to monitor their child's health using the [Shared Health Self Assessment Tool](#) before sending them to school. All employees and students who show flu-like symptoms are asked not to report to work or school and take the advice provided by MB Health, including having a COVID-19 test.

WSD staff and teachers are looking forward to this period of transition as a way to reconnect with some of our students and help others achieve their goals for the school year. We are also going to observe and assess how our social distancing protocols are working and where they may need to be improved before school starts again in the fall. We thank all of our parents/guardians for your patience and support as we have navigated the past nine weeks of home-learning. While June won't be a full return to school as usual, it is a beginning toward our new normal.