



WINNIPEG SCHOOL DIVISION

Winnipeg School Division Restricted Orange and Critical Red Level response plan

An addition to WSD Framework
For School Planning During Pandemic

WSD Framework For School Planning During Pandemic



Winnipeg School Division Pandemic Response for: Restricted Level Orange and Critical Level Red

Background

Winnipeg School Division developed and implemented its Pandemic Response Framework in Spring 2020. This Framework was further developed and changes implemented in September 2020 with the return to in-school learning. The Framework is based on the Manitoba Pandemic Response System at the Caution Level Yellow (ie) Community transmission of COVID-19 is at low levels. Household and close contact transmission could be occurring in Manitoba. There may be single or isolated small cluster outbreaks which are quickly contained. Community transmission is low to undetectable.

On September 28, 2020 Winnipeg Metropolitan Region moved to the Restricted Orange Level under the Province's Pandemic Response System. Health orders under this new level did not change any of the measures related to schools or child care centres. Schools remained in the Caution Yellow Level and continued to operate under the same protocols that were in place at the start of the school year.

Guidelines for Restricted Orange Level in schools

- Community transmission of COVID-19 is occurring across much of Manitoba.
- New clusters are occurring, but can be controlled through self-isolate, testing and contact tracing so they do not spread further.
- The health care system is able to manage COVID-19 case levels.

On October 22, 2020, Manitoba Education and Manitoba Public health directed schools to enter a modified Restricted Orange Level. The changes to the existing protocols included:

- Blending learning required for Grades 9 to 12.
- Schools must ensure two meters of physical distancing to the greatest extent possible, and adjust classroom space as necessary.
- Excess furniture must be removed from classrooms to create additional space.
- Other spaces within schools must be repurposed to accommodate more distancing (e.g., multipurpose rooms, empty rooms, shared spaces, common areas, and libraries).
- Extracurricular activities are only permitted if all learning and distancing requirements have been met. If these activities continue, established guidelines must be followed and, in the case of sports, participants should maintain distance when not active.
- Where a school cannot ensure two-metre spacing, Nursery to Grade 8 students may be offered a temporary remote learning option for the duration of the Restricted Orange Level.
- Teachers and staff who move across cohorts of students, including substitute teachers, required to wear medical masks.
- Learning focus:
 - Prioritize literacy, numeracy, science and social studies.
 - Facilitate regular contact with students to keep them engaged in remote learning.
 - Standards for remote learning should be followed.
- Ensure access to learning resources for all, including technology and addressing connectivity issues.
- Indoor choir and the use of wind instruments are not permitted.
- All field trips postponed or cancelled.

On October 30, 2020, the community of Metro Winnipeg moved to Critical Level Red on the pandemic response system, however, Manitoba Education and Manitoba Public Health directed schools to remain at the modified Restricted Orange Level. Changes in schools included:

- Change to screening questionnaire to include: "Have you been in close contact (within two metres/ six feet for more than 15 minutes) in the last 14 days with a confirmed COVID-19 case or does **anyone in your household have symptoms of COVID-19?**"
- Closure of playground equipment to general public.



Guidelines for Critical Red Level in schools

The following guidelines will be implemented only in the event of Manitoba Public Health and Manitoba Education direction to move a school or schools into a Critical Red Level.

Community spread of COVID-19 is not contained and/or there are significant strains on our health care system.

All existing protocols remain in place with the addition of:

- Remote learning for all students with the exception of Nursery to Grade 6 children of Critical Services Workers.
- School Instructional and support staff continue to work from the school, providing remote learning to all students, including those in-school. Two metres of physical distancing is required with reduced class sizes and strict infection prevention and controls in place.
- Key focus on literacy, numeracy and other curricular areas as time and resources permit.
- Emphasis on mental health and addressing the impact of school closures.
- Ensure continued connectivity for students.
- Professional development/support for educators and families.
- Staff and students connecting on a weekly basis.
- Expanded Food Security Initiative.