



Welcoming Our Students Back: Restoring Safe Schools

School and in-class instruction will begin on Tuesday September 8th for all students both in public and independent schools. Here is some information to help you and your family:

School Schedules

- Kindergarten to Grade 8 students will be going to school 5 days a week Monday- Friday.
- Grade 9-12 will be in school 5 days a week Monday to Friday if their school can keep students at a safe distance. Please check your school website.
- Students with special needs will be allowed to go to school 5 days a week Monday to Friday. This may include language needs- please check with your school.
- School start and end times will remain the same as before COVID. If unsure, please check the school website or call the school's office.
- Parents are not encouraged to enter the school. Entry and exits to the schools will be monitored, parents and visitors will have to report to the office.

Remote Learning vs. Homeschooling

- Remote learning and homeschooling are different. Homeschooling means schooling your child independently and involves extra work and cost. Remote learning is learning from a distance with support of school staff.
- Schools are no longer supporting students' learning from home unless the student has a specific reason, e.g. a doctor's note. If your child is a high risk for medical issues, the school division will make an individual plan for your child that may require remote learning. You need to contact your school division to have your plan made.
- If a family starts the year homeschooling and wants to switch to in-school learning, the school must accept them back to class mid-year.

- It is important that if you have misunderstood homeschooling from remote learning and accidentally registered your child this way that you contact your school immediately.

COVID Safety Measures

- Teachers and school staff will be receiving training from the public health authorities.
- Important ways to stay safe are to:
 - Keep a 6ft or 2-metre distance away from other people. This is called Physical Distancing.
 - Wear a mask when inside a public place or when close to other people.
 - Wash or sanitize your hands frequently. Use soap and water for 20 seconds!
 - Do not hug or shake hands with people.
 - Do not share personal items e.g. food, lip balms, hair accessories, masks. Lockers will not be used at school this year.
 - Avoid touching your nose, mouth, and eyes.
 - Cough or sneeze into a sleeve or tissue and then wash your hands immediately.
 - Stay home and self-isolate if you are experiencing COVID symptoms, have travelled outside of Manitoba, or have been in contact with someone suspected of having COVID.

Screening for Symptoms and Being Sent Home

- Parents should pre-screen their children every day before school to ensure they do not have any signs or symptoms of COVID:
 - Fever or Chills
 - Cough or Runny Nose
 - Difficulty breathing
 - Muscle aches and Fatigue
 - Nausea and vomiting
- If your child is experiencing symptoms of COVID you must keep them home, they will be sent home if you send them to school.
- If your child develops symptoms at school, you will be notified immediately and will have to come pick them up as soon as possible. They will be isolated from the class and others until you are able to come pick them up.

Student Cohorts

- Students may be split into small groups called cohorts, e.g. a classroom grouping.
- 4 metres must be kept between different cohort groups. Within a cohort group, 1-metre distancing is allowed, but students will not be allowed to mix with other cohort groups.
- Cohort groups will stagger their arrival and departure times from school, so it is important that you are aware of when your child needs to be at school and when they are expected to be leaving.

- Cohort groups will have lunch breaks and recess together. Lunch and recess breaks will be staggered.

Masks and Safety Equipment

- Students Grade 4 and up will need to wear a mask when inside the school.
- Students under Grade 4 may wear a mask if their parents direct them to.
- Masks are required on all school buses for Grades 4-12. Bus drivers will also be required to wear a mask.
- Try to provide your child with a reusable mask. Label your child's mask and practice showing them how to put it on and off by themselves.
- Wash or sanitize your mask (if it is reusable) before putting it on. Ensure your mask is not dirty or has not touched an un-sanitized surface before putting it on.
- If you cannot find nonmedical masks for your child to wear let the school know and they will provide them for you.

During and After School Programs

- Most community programs will not be operating at school except for day-cares. Most after school programs will not be run out of schools.
- Please check with schools and community organizations about other options.
- Snack will not be provided in school. Students need to bring their own.
- Lunch program will still be offered but in the classroom.

More Information

- Factsheets with all updated protocols will be distributed to parents by the school. Please connect with school or community supports if you need help to understand new information.