

PARENTS AND GUARDIANS GUIDE 2020–21 SCHOOL YEAR

Return to near normal daily in-school classes with health measures



Learning in the new school year

Students will return to school daily for Nursery to Grade 8 and a minimum of two days per cycle for high school, starting September 8 (week of September 14 for Nursery and Kindergarten).

There are health measures that everyone has to follow to reduce the risk of COVID-19 and help stay safe.

While your school will develop a plan to meet the government's health recommendations, everyone will have a role to play.

PARENTS' ROLE IN KEEPING SCHOOLS SAFE

Screen for symptoms every morning

Check every morning to see if your child has any of these symptoms.

If yes, they must stay at home:

- Fever, cough, shortness of breath/difficulty breathing, sore throat, chills, painful swallowing
- Runny nose/nasal congestion, feeling unwell/fatigued, nausea/vomiting/diarrhea, unexplained loss of appetite
- Loss of sense of taste or smell, muscle/joint aches, headache, Conjunctivitis (Pink Eye)

Students, parents or family members must not enter school if they:

- Feel sick or have symptoms of COVID-19
- Have anyone in the household who has been in close contact in the last 14 days with someone who is confirmed to have COVID-19
- Have traveled outside of Canada in the last 14 days
- Had close contact with someone who has travelled outside of Canada in the last 14 days and who is ill

Keep a safe distance

Keep 2 metres between you and others when possible:

- During drop-off and pick-up
- During interactions with a teacher, school staff or other parents and students

Pick up students promptly if they show symptoms at school

You will be asked to pick up your child from school immediately if they show symptoms. Please ensure the school has your most up-to-date contact information so they may reach you if your child needs to be picked up.

Taking your child to school

If your child normally takes the bus, consider taking them directly to school if your personal situation allows for it. This would help with physical distancing on the bus for students who do not have other options besides taking the bus.



WHAT STUDENTS NEED TO KNOW

Talk to your child about some of the new health measures to help them prepare for the first day of school:

- Sanitize hands before entering school and classrooms
- Keep a distance between others and follow marks in hallways
- Do not share food or personal items
- Cough or sneeze into your elbow
- Tell staff if feeling sick at school
- Lunch and recess time may change to allow for more physical distancing
- Students may be asked to stay in their own cohort to decrease contact with others
- Students who take the bus will have to sit in the same seat every day.
- All students must wear non-medical masks on school busses.

Cohort

A cohort is a group of students who remain together. The size of the cohort will depend on the physical space of the classroom.

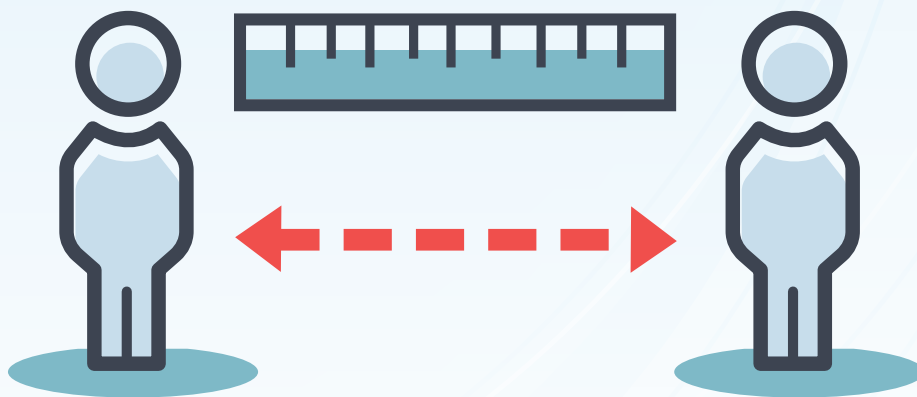
The risk of COVID-19 is reduced by limiting exposure to others. Staying in a cohort also makes contact tracing easier and faster if there is a suspected case of COVID-19.

Your child may feel nervous about what school will be like. While there will be changes, the key school experience will be the same as before—they will learn in class with their teacher and see friends.

HEALTH MEASURES AT SCHOOLS

Schools will follow detailed health guidelines to prepare for the return of students. For example:

- More cleaning and disinfection of high touch areas and shared equipment
- Allow for physical distancing when possible, which may include:
 - Stagger pick-up and drop-off times
 - One-way or marked hallways and designated entrance and exit doors
 - Leave space between desks and tables
 - Stagger start and end-times for classes and lunchtime to avoid crowded hallways
 - Limiting bathroom occupancy
- When physical distancing is not possible, extra emphasis will be on hand hygiene, covering coughs and sneezes, and cleaning.
- Students, where possible, will be cohorted by class.
- Non-medical masks are mandated by Manitoba Public Health for all staff, for students Grade 4 and up, and are encouraged for students in all grades.



WINNIPEG SCHOOL DIVISION