

## **MEDIA NOTICE**

## Winnipeg School Division school playgrounds closed during critical red level

May 14, 2021 (Winnipeg, MB) – The Winnipeg School Division (WSD) is closing school playgrounds except for school daytime use for the duration of the Critical Red Level Remote Learning period scheduled to end May 30, 2021. This closure is being made for the safety of our students (both in school and home remote learners) and due to increased use by community members during school hour. Signage is being installed to make community members aware of the closure.

WSD recognizes that outdoor play is one of the few pleasures families have at this time, however, WSD schools have unfortunately been experiencing people congregating at the school playgrounds both during and after school hours. The purpose of moving to Critical Red Level and remote learning is to disrupt the opportunity for the COVID virus and variants from transmitting among students and staff in any school setting, including school playgrounds.

WSD is celebrating 150 years of learning this year and has 79 schools, 32,752 students and 4,587 full-time employees. Its purpose is to provide a learning environment that fosters the growth of each student's potential and provide equitable opportunity to develop the knowledge, skills and values necessary for meaningful participation in a global and diverse society.

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