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## Welcoming Our Students Back: Restoring Safe Schools

### Interpreters Guide:

Using the publicly released provincial document “*Welcoming our Students Back: Restoring Safe Schools, COVID-19 K-12 School Settings Practice Guidance and Protocols,*” as well as each divisional school plan, Immigration Partnership Winnipeg (IPW) in partnership with the Ethnocultural Council of Manitoba (ECCM), Manitoba Association of Newcomer Serving Organizations (MANSO) and the Winnipeg School Division, have gathered key information about the return of students to the classroom this September to share to the ethnocultural communities. Our hope is that by sharing this information in various languages both written and orally, it will help ensure clarity and understanding of the new policies and procedures in place around COVID 19.

Please remember that if you have any questions or concerns you may reach out to your ethnocultural community leaders or school administration directly.

We also, understand that information is often changing and can be overwhelming for both parents and students, we would like to note that this document and the information shared is important general information that has remained consistent in all publicly released documents from the provincial government and Manitoba Education.

## Key Information to be Relayed:

### General:

- School and in class instruction will begin on Tuesday September the 8<sup>th</sup> for all students both in public and independent schools.
- 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 ensure physical distancing. (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 school website or call the school's office.
- 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 too.
- Masks are required on all school buses for Grades 4-12.
- Bus drivers will also be required to wear a mask.
- Teachers and school staff will be receiving training from the public health authorities to ensure they fully understand all the safety and health protocols being put in place.
- Everyone must follow all COVID safety measures:
  - Maintain a 6ft or 2-metre distance away from other people (Physical Distancing)
  - Wear a mask when inside a public place or in close range of other people
  - Wash or sanitize your hands frequently (soap and water for 20 seconds)
  - Sanitize surfaces that are frequently touched
  - Stay home and self-isolate if they are experiencing COVID symptoms, have travelled outside of Manitoba, or have been in contact with someone suspected of having COVID
  - Close interactions with people should not exceed 15 mins.
- Community programs will not be operating at school except for day-cares. After school programs will not be run out of schools. Please check with schools and community organizations about other options.
- Lunch and recess breaks will be staggered
- Entry and Exits to the schools will be monitored

### For Students:

- No hugs or handshakes with friends and others while at school
- Maintain physical distancing (2 meters apart)
- Lockers will not be used this year

- 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 have lunch breaks and recess together
- No sharing personal items (food, lip balms, hair accessories, masks)
- Avoid touching your nose, mouth, and eyes
- Practice good breathing etiquette such as, coughing or sneezing into a sleeve or tissue then washing your hands immediately.
- Grade 4-12 must wear a mask when inside the school.
- 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.

### **For Parents:**

- 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.
- If you cannot find nonmedical masks for your child to wear let the school know and they will provide them for you.
- Label your child's mask and practice showing them how to put it on and off by themselves.
- School will no longer be providing snacks; students will be required to pack their own snacks.
- Lunch program will continue in schools but will be offered in the classroom, check your school's website for further details.
- If your child develops symptoms at school, you will be notified immediately and will have to come pick them up as soon as possible.
- If your child shows symptoms they will be isolated from the class and others until you are able to come pick them up.
- 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.
- Remote learning and homeschooling are different. Schools are not required to support students' learning from home unless the student has a specific reason, e.g. doctor's note. Homeschooling means schooling your child independently and involves extra work and cost. If a family changes their mind and wants to switch from homeschooling, the school must accept them back to class mid-year.
- It is important that if you have misunderstood homeschooling from remote learning and registered your child incorrectly that you contact your school immediately.

- 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.
- 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. School snacks

### **Divisional Plans:**

Each school division has created their own plan they will be implementing come September 8<sup>th</sup>. Each plan is following the province's protocols but may differ in implementation- it is important that you understand specifically what protocols your school and division are implementing.

Links to the most recent plans for divisions across Manitoba can be found at:

<https://manitoba.ca/covid19/restoring/school-divisions.html>

### **Here is where to find information specific to divisions in Winnipeg:**

#### **Winnipeg School Division:**

<https://www.winnipegssd.ca/Pages/Default.aspx>

<https://www.winnipegssd.ca/Parents/PandemicPlanning/Documents/WSD%20Framework%20for%20School%20Planning%20during%20pandemic%20WEB.pdf>

#### **Louis Riel School Division:**

<https://www.lrsd.net/Pages/default.aspx>

<https://www.lrsd.net/leadership/COVID19/pages/default.aspx>

### **Pembina Trails School Division:**

<https://www.pembinatrails.ca/Pages/default.aspx>

<https://www.pembinatrails.ca/Pages/Welcoming-our-students-back-in-September.aspx>

- It is important to note that Grade 9-12 will be participating in blended learning only attending school twice a week for in class learning and the remaining 3 for remote learning.

### **River East Transcona School Division**

[https://www.retsd.mb.ca/Pages/home.aspx#/="](https://www.retsd.mb.ca/Pages/home.aspx#/=)

<https://www.retsd.mb.ca/Lists/Publications/RETSD%202020-21%20Welcoming%20Students%20Back.pdf>

### **St. James Assiniboia School Division**

[https://www.sjasd.ca/Pages/default.aspx#/="](https://www.sjasd.ca/Pages/default.aspx#/=)

<https://www.sjasd.ca/Documents/SJASD%20Welcoming%20Our%20Students%20Back%20FINAL%20-%20UPDATE%20AUGUST%202020.pdf>

- Grade 9 to 12 students will begin attending in-class learning on alternate days for the first 3 weeks of September. On September 28th, where two metre physical distancing is possible, students may return to in-class learning every day.

### **Seven Oaks School Division**

[https://www.7oaks.org/Pages/default.aspx#/="](https://www.7oaks.org/Pages/default.aspx#/=)

<https://www.7oaks.org/Bulletins/Seven%20Oaks%20Docs/Seven%20Oaks%20Re-entry%20Plan%20September%202020.pdf>

- Most high school students will attend in person every second day and learn at home on the alternate days. Half of our students will attend days 1, 3 and 5. Half will attend days 2, 4 and 6. Schools will communicate details the week of August 31st . Exceptions to this will be students in CVE programs and students in our Met Schools where they are in internships, distinct cohorts, out of school facilities and some in school facilities large enough to permit physical distancing.

## **Resources:**

**Welcoming Our Students Back: Restoring Safe Schools  
School Settings Practice Guidance and Protocols plus Guide for Parents, Caregivers and  
Students**

<https://www.gov.mb.ca/covid19/restoring/rss-practice-guidance.html>