



# John de Graff Elementary

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August 2021

## Welcoming Students Back to John de Graff

On September 8 we will be welcoming students back to school. Students in Grade 1 to Grade 5 will start on September 8. Kindergarten students will start on September 10.

We have been working on a plan for staff and students that complies with Manitoba Education, Manitoba Health and River East Transcona School Division directives. We are planning for a safe return to learning, and we will be working with parents and communicating school-specific information via emails, newsletters, and our John de Graff website to navigate the safe experience of your child at our school.

As situations sometimes change during this Pandemic period, changes to our plan may be required. At this point here is information that we want you to be aware of:

### School Preparedness Plans

- We will have a monitored access system. Students will use their assigned doors. Parents will need to book an appointment to come into the building or call the office (204-669-1280) when they enter the front doors – to have someone meet them.
- Physical distancing of 2 metres (or 6 feet) to the greatest extent possible, hand sanitizing upon entering the school and using the Health Links self screening tool prior to coming to the school are expectations.
- Masks are mandatory for all visitors to the school and for students in Grades K-5 and staff in the building and on school buses.
- We encourage parents, visitors, and caregivers to email or call the teachers, admin, or school office to talk, rather than coming to the school.
- If any person exhibits signs and symptoms of illness, they are asked not to enter the building and seek applicable health testing or recommendations.
- Students that are sick at school will be given a mask, removed from the classroom and parents will be called to pick them up promptly. You will need to provide 4 emergency contact numbers for this.
- The school is being regularly cleaned with a focus on bathroom area.
- Proper hand hygiene is being taught and encouraged.
- Hand sanitizer, liquid hand soap/water, hand dryers/paper towels, and sanitizing technology wipes are consistently available.
- In order to help maximize safety, water fountains that are not touchless are closed off or bagged so that they cannot be used. Bottle re-fill stations will continue to be available. Students must supply their own bottle, and these should not be shared.
- You received your child's school supply information in June. Please ask your child's teacher if you need an extra copy. School supply fees should be given to your child's teacher.



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- Students and staff wash or sanitize their hands after all recess and when entering the school in the A.M. and P.M. as well before eating lunch/snacks.
- Students' belongings will be kept with them in the classroom and student seating and movement will be organized to be 2 metres (or 6 feet) apart, if possible, and reduced to 1 metre if sitting or if necessary.

## Classroom Transitions, Cohorts, Student Movement Plans

- There will be limited movement of people within the school and physical distancing will be maintained as much as possible.
- We have organized the classes into cohorts of 2 classes together. Cohorts will avoid interactions with other groups. These cohorts will be used for recess and physical education. Recesses will be staggered by cohort groups to reduce the number of students on the school yard at one time.
- Directional markers will be used in hallways and classrooms to clearly indicate safe movement directions and minimize close contact with others.
- Entry to the school and exit from the school for students will be staggered and monitored by teachers.

## COVID-19 Signage

Signage is posted in the school to communicate Manitoba Health best practices. Students will be taught about the signage, its meaning and procedures, as well as the safe wearing and removal of masks.

## Transportation

Buses will be running at regular capacity and assigned seating is an expectation. Fee- for-service will not be offered until such time as ridership and capacity are determined.

While drivers will wear a disposable medical mask, all school bus passengers are required to wear a non-medical mask. These masks should be put on before getting on the bus and taken off after exiting the bus if removal is appropriate for the setting.

## Special Events, Field Trips & Volunteers

- We will not be able to hold any Assemblies or special events at this time. Meetings will occur on TEAMS.
- Field trips/out of school excursions are permitted as long as the activities follow current public health recommendations and orders at the time. Your child's teacher will communicate with you if plans are made for this.
- At this time, volunteers will not be permitted.



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## Lunches

Lunch Supervisors will be supervising our lunch period and will follow all school expectations. We will be having a staggered eating and play time, as we did last year.

- 11:45 – 12:10 Cohort #1 from each Grade Level (Gr. 1 to Gr. 5) will eat their lunch in their classroom.  
Cohort #2 from each Grade Level (Gr. 1 to Gr. 5) will play outdoors.
- 12:20 – 12:40 Cohort #1 from each Grade Level (Gr. 1 to Gr. 5) will play outdoors.  
Cohort #2 from each Grade Level (Gr. 1 to Gr. 5) will eat their lunch in their classroom.
- Kindergarten students will have the entire lunch period to eat in their classroom then play.

All students staying for lunch need to bring their lunch with them in the morning. Milk will be available for purchase starting Monday, September 13. We do not have microwaves available for student lunches.

Cohorts will be described more in our September Newsletter. All Cohorts will have less than 75 students.

## Learning and Learning Areas

- We will be working with students on all curricular learning areas, but with a strong emphasis on literacy and numeracy. Students will have music and physical education classes. Singing in school is not permitted at this time.
- We will try to be outdoors as much as possible – so students must dress appropriately for the weather.
- Public health advises that playgrounds and play structures are low risk for transmission. There are no specific requirements for cleaning play structures. All play structures and swing sets are open.
- Students will receive an agenda, as we usually do, to help maintain communication between home and school.
- We will have home reading starting in September for all students, with specific information going home from classroom teachers.
- We will not be able to have our usual September Open House. Teachers will be sending home a classroom or Grade Level information letter to let you know about your child's learning environment. Please email or call your child's teacher if you have questions or would like additional information.

## Self Screening, Symptom Monitoring Process and Personal Hygiene

- Students and staff must stay home if they are sick or displaying possible COVID-19 symptoms. Please use the COVID-19 Shared Health Links Screening Tool for more information about these symptoms.
- We will be following all health orders. Our preventative measures will be:
  - Regular handwashing with warm water and soap for at least 20 seconds. Dry hand thoroughly.
  - Use of hand sanitizer if hand washing not possible.



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- Covering your mouth and nose with a tissue when coughing or sneezing and immediate disposal of the tissue and immediate hand washing or sanitizing or sneezing/coughing into your elbow/sleeve.
- Social distancing of 2 metres (or 6 feet) or 1 metre if seated or if necessary.
- Masks for all adults and students (K-5).
- Additional Personal Protective Equipment being used by some staff, depending on student needs. Please note that if this is necessary, families will be contacted.

## Protocol if There is a Positive Case in the School

- In the event of a confirmation of a case of COVID-19 connected with a class, public health will lead the response and provide guidance. Public health will advise staff and students if they have been in close contact if they need to self-isolate or self-monitor and when they can return to school.

Decisions about school or class closures will be made on a case-by-case basis with public health leading the response and providing guidance.

Classroom teachers will support the development and provision of at-home learning packages for students who are isolating or quarantined as directed by public health.

## Teaching, Learning & Well-Being

- Recognizing that students are returning to school with more varied learning experiences than usual, we will support students with learning as needed. Students' learning will be assessed on an ongoing basis to ensure that next steps are being appropriately planned for.
- All curriculum areas are important and build students' literacy and numeracy knowledge. We will continue to offer all subjects.
- As is the case for all students, students with additional needs from K–12 will be receiving in-class learning as prescribed by the province. Programming for students with additional needs may include a student specific plan, such as an Individual Education Plan (IEP) or an Adapted Education Plan (AEP). This collaborative planning will be led by the school team and as needed, supported by divisional staff. If students with additional needs are not able to physically distance, provincial and divisional protocols will guide the necessary next steps.
- Student mental health and well-being is a core element of the re-opening planning. It is foundational in ensuring a return to a welcoming environment that supports learning. We all need to reassure children that our schools are safe for children when they are consistently following preventative practices, including environmental cleaning, frequent hand hygiene, and routine screening.



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## The Possibility of Remote Learning

- Students and families need to be prepared for a blended or fully remote learning model that allows transition of teaching and learning from in-class to remote with as little disruption as possible. Should this arise, we will be in contact with parents to communicate next steps.

## Student Attendance

- We expect all John de Graff students to attend in-class learning, at this time. If your child is medically advised not to return to school, please call the school. We will be working collaboratively with parents/caregivers to support your child in this situation. If you are choosing to educate your child at home, please contact Homeschooling Office (information below). Please let the school Administration know if you are choosing this option.

Homeschooling Office  
Manitoba Education and Training  
1567 Dublin Ave.  
Winnipeg, MB R3E 3J5  
Phone: 204.945.8138  
Email: [homeschooling@gov.mb.ca](mailto:homeschooling@gov.mb.ca)

- If your child will be absent from school, or late, please follow our usual call back procedure – call the school office at 204-669-1280 before 8:50 a.m. or leave a message (24 hours answering machine) or inform your child’s teacher ahead of time re: known absences that will be happening.

Thank you for reading this information about our school.

Thank you for giving your child information about the new health procedures and precautions at school.

Thank you for purchasing masks and washing them daily.

Thank you for collaborating with us and calling us if you have questions.

Please see additional information about the First Day of School!

Take care and be safe!

Margaret Fair  
Principal

Rachel Reyes  
Vice-Principal

# What Should I Do if My Child is Sick?



Students should stay home from school if they are sick, no matter how mild the symptoms. If your child comes to school with any COVID-19 symptoms, the school will immediately isolate the student and call parents to pick them up.

If students have one symptom from the Column A or two from Column B, they should immediately get tested for COVID-19.

## Column A

Do you have a new onset, or worsening, of any ONE of the following symptoms?

- Fever > 38°C or think you have a fever or chills
- Cough
- Sore throat/hoarse voice
- Shortness of breath/breathing difficulties
- Loss of taste or smell
- Vomiting or diarrhea for more than 24 hours

## Column B

Do you have a new onset, or worsening, of any TWO of the following symptoms?

- Runny nose
- Muscle aches
- Fatigue
- Conjunctivitis (pink eye)
- Headache
- Skin rash of unknown cause
- Nausea or loss of appetite
- Poor feeding (if an infant)

## When Can My Child Return to School?

If your child gets tested for COVID-19 and is:



**Negative:** They can return to school after 24 hours of being symptom-free.



**Positive:** Public Health will provide guidance regarding what is required before your child can return to school.

If your child is sick and you decide not to get tested for COVID-19 the student must self-isolate for 10 days from symptom onset plus 24 hours of being symptom-free before returning to school.

# When Can Students Attend School?



No one in the household is symptomatic, is awaiting COVID-19 test results, nor is a close contact to a case and advised by Public Health to self-isolate

Student or household member is sick

Sick and not COVID-19 tested

Sick and COVID-19 tested

Student must isolate for 10 days from symptom onset and then the student can return after 24 hours of being symptom-free

If results are negative, 1) a well student can return to school immediately OR 2) if the student is sick, they can return after 24 hours of being symptom-free

**Positive COVID-19 test**  
Student must continue to self-isolate—public health staff will provide direction