

COVID-19 STAFF UPDATE #6

October 22, 2020

Manitoba Education has announced that as of Monday, October 26, all schools in the Winnipeg region, which includes all schools in River East Transcona School Division, will start operating in the Restricted (orange) level of the Pandemic Response System (PRS). Although no new cases have been identified in our schools, the department is looking at ways to ensure transmission remains minimal.

We are sending a letter home to families today to let them know their child's school may be making changes based on the restrictions. While in-class learning remains in place in our school, we also will be sending home information about temporary remote learning options for students in K – 8.

Our school already has some of these restrictions in place; however, we must implement the following measures to be in effect as of Monday, October 26th to meet the provincial requirements:

- Schools must ensure two metres of physical distancing to the greatest extent possible, and adjust classroom space as necessary; excess furniture must be removed from classrooms to create additional space; other spaces within schools must be repurposed to accommodate more distancing (e.g., multipurpose rooms, empty rooms, shared spaces, common areas, and libraries).
- Extracurricular activities are only permitted if all learning and distancing requirements have been met. If these activities continue, established guidelines must be followed and, in the case of sports, participants should maintain distance when not active.
- Teachers and staff who move across cohorts of students, including substitute teachers, are required to wear medical masks. Medical-grade disposable masks have been issued to all schools. N95 masks are not required.
- Indoor choir and the use of wind instruments are not permitted.
- All field trips must be postponed or cancelled.
- Blended learning (in-class and online) for grades 9–12 where distancing cannot be achieved will continue as per status quo.
- K–8 students may be offered a temporary remote learning option for the duration of the Restricted level (Orange).
- All other public health measures are still in effect.

The division is in daily contact with Manitoba Education and Manitoba Health and will keep you informed of any changes to the above.

We are so appreciative of the considerable efforts you have made to accommodate your students and colleagues during this period. Thank you again for helping us meet these new requirements.

Best regards,

