

March 4, 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians:

COVID-19 has brought so many unknowns and unexpected changes. Over the past few months, we have provided you with as much information as was available to us. With your support, our schools have served as sturdy, nurturing foundations that have provided a sense of belonging and the connections that our students need for their learning and wellbeing. Thank you.

As we move into the final four months of the year, there is some additional information that is important for you to know:

- school re-entry for those students in K - 8 wishing to return to in class learning from temporary remote learning
- spring sports
- universal precautions
- changes to isolation requirements

When students in K – 8 chose either in class or online learning, school buildings were reconfigured to support the distancing requirements outlined by the province. As students choose to return to in class learning, additional reconfiguration might be required at school to accommodate more students in classrooms while continuing to adhere to distancing requirements. Kindly liaise with the school principal if your child(ren) is interested in returning to school. Contact transportation staff if your child rides the bus. To support a smooth re-entry, please note these timelines:

Parents to Notify Principal of Child's Return to School by This Date:	Child to Return to School on This Date:
March 18	April 5
April 12	April 26
May 10	May 25

As much as possible, please try to adhere to these timelines. Students can continue with online learning while schools remain in the restricted (Orange) level of the provincial pandemic response system.

With continued caution, all spring extra-curricular school sport competitions have been cancelled for this school year. School-based, cohorted activities may continue. This decision has been made in alignment with the Manitoba High School Athletic Association.

There has been considerable media attention related to the variants of COVID – 19. All viruses change as part of their evolution. At present there are three variants of concern related to COVID-19. One of these variants has been identified in Manitoba. It is imperative that we continue taking all appropriate steps to protect each other. Consistent use of masks, regular hand washing, social distancing and staying home when you are ill are effective against the variants of concern. To address these variants, Public Health staff have changed the isolation and self-isolation requirements for individuals who are symptomatic, close contacts and those who travel.

For clarification, the terms isolate and self-isolate can be distinguished by whether you are sick (isolate) or not (self-isolate). In each situation, isolation or self-isolation, means staying home and keeping away from others, including household members.

Students can attend school if no one in the household is symptomatic, is awaiting COVID-19 test results or is a close contact to a positive COVID-19 case. Students cannot attend school:

- if they or a household member are sick
- if the student or a household member is a close contact to a positive COVID-19 case
- if the student or household member has travelled outside of the province

Details of when students can return to school can be found on the attached chart.

During this uncertain time, we are committed to providing a sense of safety in the physical, emotional, relational and educational realms for all of our students. The care and concern you offer to your families to keep all of us safe is appreciated.

Looking forward to the coming of spring and all of the sunshine it brings.

Sincerely,



Kelly Barkman
Superintendent/CEO

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When Can Students Attend School?

