



Friday, August 14, 2020

On July 30, 2020 “[Welcoming Our Students Back: Restoring Safe Schools](#)” was released. Schools will reopen for teachers and staff on September 2, 2020 with students returning on September 8, 2020. The Province released “[COVID-19 K–12 School Settings Practice Guidance and Protocols](#)” which will guide return to school practices on August 13, 2020. A “[Guide for Parents, Caregivers and Students](#)” and a [FAQ](#) is also available.

Manitoba is targeting a full return to in-class learning for all in the fall, school divisions submitted a draft re-opening plan on July 22, for different public health scenarios. Our updated plan is available on our website. Schools will contact you with specific plans before students return.

School starts on September 8th for students. We plan to begin the year with Transitions Days as in past years.

Kindergarten to Grade 8 students will return for five days of in-class instruction (full instructional day) per week.

Grades 9-12

- Within each grade, students will be divided into learning groups (cohorts) attending in class, every other day. Students will, on alternate days, be expected to complete work from the previous day or engage in online activities as provided by the teacher.

	Day 1	Day 2
Learning Group A	Face to Face Instruction	Online/distance learning
Learning Group B	Online/distance learning	Face to face instruction

Students with special needs in all grades will return for five days of in-class instruction (full instructional day) per week.

Teachers and staff will return to schools on September 2, 3 and 4, providing an opportunity for orientation to public health requirements and the educational priorities to support students, as well as professional learning around recovery learning. Training on COVID protocols and preparedness for staff will occur on Sept. 2-4. A program is under development.

The divisional plan will be accessible by August 14, and school plans will be accessible by September 4th. Schools will communicate directly and frequently with families to provide them with information about the school year and ongoing plans for instruction and supports.

Students in Grade 5 and above, as well as teachers and staff, are strongly recommended to wear a non-medical mask in common areas throughout schools and when physical distancing of two metres is not possible. Younger students can wear masks too. **Masks will be required when on school buses for all students in Grades 5 and above.**

A **checklist** is attached to assist you in preparing to send your children to school.

Please take the time to read our full return plan online as well as other helpful documents for parents from the Province of Manitoba.

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Student/Parent Checklist



- Review [current Public Health orders](#) and talk to your child(ren) about hand washing/sanitizing and social distancing. Further information is available here:
 - [A Guide for Parents, Caregivers and Students: What to expect when welcomed back to school](#)
 - [Parent/Guardian Frequently Asked Questions](#)
 - [Ask the Manitoba Government a question about Restoring Safe Schools.](#)
- Screen for symptoms prior to sending children to school. If ill ensure they stay home.
 - If you are unsure whether you or your child should be tested and self-isolate, you should use the COVID-19 Screening Tool at <https://sharedhealthmb.ca/covid19/screening-tool/>.
 - All screening that identifies suspected cases of COVID-19 should be referred to Health Links – Info Santé at 204-788-8200 or 1-888-315-9257.
- Make sure your information is current at school, including emergency contacts and individuals authorized to pick up your child(ren) from school. If that list includes anyone who is at increased risk for severe illness from COVID-19, consider identifying an alternate person.
- Pack a mask and encourage your child to wear it especially in common areas and when physically distancing is not possible.
 - **Students in Grade 5 and above, as well as teachers and staff, are strongly recommended to wear a non-medical mask in common areas** throughout schools and when physical distancing of two metres is not possible. Younger students can wear masks too.
 - **Masks will be required when on school buses for all students in Grades 5 and above.** Boarding and exiting the bus will be done with physical distancing and assigned seats.
 - Extra masks will be made available at all schools throughout the school year for those who do not have their own.
- Ensure you send a water bottle with your child. Bottle filling stations will be open, fountains are closed.
- Talk to your child about precautions to take at school. Children may be advised to:
 - Wash and sanitize their hands more often.
 - Keep physical distance from other students.
 - Avoid sharing objects with other students, including water bottles, devices, writing instruments, and books.
- Plan for possible school closures or periods of quarantine. [Ensure you have childcare plans in place.](#)
- Reinforce the concept of physical distancing with your child.
- Parents/guardians and staff are encouraged to consult with their health care provider if they have concerns about their own health, their child's health, or the health of other household contacts.
- Division-level remote learning will be in place for students who are [medically advised](#) not to return to in-class learning due to COVID-related risk factors. These situations should be rare and limited to children with compromised immune systems or other medical conditions that increase their risk. [Parents and caregivers must consult with physicians on the need for an accommodation.](#)

Guidance may change based on emerging circumstances and information from public health officials. Visit <http://www.manitoba.ca/covid19/> for information on prevention, as well as for updates on the evolving situation. Please visit Manitoba Education's *Latest COVID-19 Education News* website at <https://www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/covid/index.html> for the [latest news](#) and for [frequently asked questions](#).