



Thursday, June 3, 2021

Western School Division students, parents and staff,

Earlier today we were informed that Manitoba Education, on the recommendation of Public Health is requiring all schools in Western School Division to move to Remote Learning for 2 weeks due to COVID cases within the community. **All schools in Western School Division will be in Remote Learning from Monday, June 7th to at least Friday, June 18th. Minnewasta School, which had already moved to remote learning, will continue in Remote Learning until at least Friday, June 18th.** Manitoba Education and Public Health will determine prior to June 18th, whether students will return to school in person or continue in Remote Learning on Monday, June 21st. This move is being made by Manitoba Education and Public Health out of an abundance of caution. As a division, we support the decision by Public Health and Manitoba Education even though we are not aware of any new cases in our schools recently.

As Remote Learning will begin on Monday, June 7th, we are **encouraging families to keep their children home on Friday, June 4th**. We understand that the short notice may make this difficult for all parents and we are prepared to accommodate families in need.

During this time, all schools will be closed, except to the **children of [Critical Services Workers](#) who cannot make alternate care arrangements**. Students with special needs in K to 12, as defined on page 5 of Appropriate Educational Programming in Manitoba: Standards for Student Services (2006) and those identified as being at risk as outlined previously, continue to have the option to attend school, as outlined in their student-specific plans.

Earlier this year the schools reached out to families to determine who qualifies as a Critical Services Worker. Families who cannot make alternate care arrangements and who qualify as a Critical Services Worker should reach out to the school to ensure supervision arrangements are made for your child at school.

Transportation services will continue to be available for students of Critical Services Workers.

During this period of Remote Learning:

- All students move to teacher-led remote learning.
- While at school, children of Critical Services workers will participate in and receive support for the same teacher-led remote learning that their classmates who are learning from home are receiving. Children who attend school during a Critical (Red) PRS level will be supervised while at school and will be supported by staff in the school to participate in remote learning.

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- Students with special needs will continue to have the option to attend school, as outlined in their student-specific plans. Supports and instruction will be guided by the student-specific planning process.

Schools will endeavour to keep you apprised of any changes or developments in the coming days.

We appreciate the support our students, staff, families and the community have shown in dealing with the pandemic. Please feel free to reach out to the schools directly if you have any additional questions.

Respectfully,

Stephen Ross

Superintendent of Schools

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