



Friday, March 11, 2022

We appreciate everyone's efforts as we navigate our way forward during this stage of the pandemic. Throughout the pandemic Western School Division has followed Public Health guidance and orders. On Tuesday, March 15th Public Health guidance and orders are being removed. **Western School Division will continue to follow the guidance of Public Health and the Province of Manitoba.**

Effective March 15, 2022 the following changes will occur in schools:

- Masks will no longer be required indoors or on school buses, and instead their use will be optional and up to individual choice. Western School Division will continue to make masks available to those individuals that want them as long as our supply allows.
- Physical distancing and cohorts are no longer required. Schools will continue to group and organize students as needed.
- All transportation restrictions will be removed.
- All restrictions around music activities will be removed.
- Schools will continue to provide parents the option of attending Student Conferences in-person or remotely.
- Community Use of Schools will resume after spring break.
- Remote learning will not likely be recommended for ongoing COVID-19 management.
- As mask requirements are removed, it is important to note that many people will continue to choose to wear masks, based on their individual risk and personal preference.
- Schools will continue to provide their current supply of rapid antigen tests to K-12 students and staff for use when symptoms develop.

We encourage everyone to continue to follow preventive measures as much as possible

- Be sure to stay home if you're sick.
- Wash your hands frequently.

Western School Division does not tolerate intimidation, bullying or harassment. We expect that our learning and workspaces will continue to be welcoming places for everyone, regardless of personal choices regarding masks and other personal health measures.

Respectfully,

Stephen Ross

Superintendent of Schools

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