

June 1, 2020

Limited Use of School Facilities

▶▶▶▶ Facility Use at Schools is Permitted

In careful consultation with public health experts, the province is beginning Phase 2 of *Restoring Safe Services: Manitoba's Pandemic and Economic Roadmap for Recovery*. While classroom learning will remain suspended for the remainder of the school year, schools are now open for staff and for specific programs. As well, students will be able to meet with teachers for the purpose of assessment and planning for the resumption of classes in September. Guidelines for schools (effective June 1) outlined in Phase 2 are to be followed (see www.gov.mb.ca/covid19/restoring/phase-two.html).

School divisions and schools should make decisions around the use of school facilities based on local needs and school preparedness, while ensuring public health guidelines are followed. The government of Manitoba COVID-19 support document *Workplace Guidance for Business Owners* may also be useful (see www.gov.mb.ca/asset_library/en/coronavirus/restoring-workplace-guidance.pdf).

▶▶▶▶ Infection Prevention Measures

- Occupancy must be based on maintaining physical distancing of two metres/six feet in individual rooms, with no more than 25 people per room. Limited access to school facilities will continue to be permitted in settings where physical distancing can be maintained, including in the following instances:
 - Teachers and students meeting in small-group or one-on-one settings to conduct student assessments, provide clinical supports, administer recovery and remedial learning plans, and provide therapeutic services
 - Day camps and summer programming
 - Scheduled students accessing school Wi-Fi and/or computer equipment
 - Counselling and emergency phone access for students
 - Students using outdoor facilities and playgrounds
- Screening must occur at the start of each day.
 - Post the workplace screening poster at the entrance(s) (see www.gov.mb.ca/asset_library/en/coronavirus/COVID-19-poster-1.pdf for a printable copy of the poster).

- Employees, volunteers, and visitors should review the detailed online self-screening tool that is also available at <https://sharedhealthmb.ca/covid19/screening-tool/>.
- Anyone (e.g., staff, volunteers, and students) with symptoms (e.g., cough, fever, runny nose, sore throat, breathing difficulties) will not be allowed to attend.
- If an attendee—including staff, volunteers, and students—or a member of their household is being investigated by Public Health for COVID-19 infection, they should not attend. Regional Public Health officials will provide direction to attendees.
- If an attendee develops symptoms while at the school, they should be isolated in a predetermined isolation space. Where a separate room is not available, they should be kept at least two metres away from others.
- If the attendee is a child, their parent/caregiver should be notified to come and pick them up immediately and instructed to call Health Links at 204-788-8200 or 1-888-315-9257.
- Maintain physical distance of at least two metres to the greatest extent possible, except for brief exchanges and when providing or receiving service. Multiple groups of 25 people can operate within a school setting at the same time, provided these groups can be segregated to prevent contact with other groups through the use of separate exits or by staggered drop-off schedules. Schools will need to exercise caution and consider the total number of students and staff in the building at any given time to avoid unintended congestion and/or gatherings beyond the public health recommendations.
- Install signage outlining physical distancing protocols and floor markings where any lines may form, both inside and outside the facility.
- Prominently display signs and posters highlighting the importance of hand hygiene, physical distancing, and staying home when sick. The following websites have posters that can be printed and used:
 - Shared Health Manitoba:
<https://sharedhealthmb.ca/covid19/providers/posters/>
 - Manitoba Health, Seniors and Active Living:
www.gov.mb.ca/covid19/resources/index.html
- Encourage hand hygiene and make hand sanitizer available at all building access points.
 - Staff, volunteers, and participants should frequently wash their hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds at the following times:
 - at the start of the day and before going home
 - after going to the washroom
 - before preparing food
 - before eating
 - after getting hands dirty
 - after wiping noses or handling dirty tissues
 - after coughing, sneezing, or blowing nose
 - after cleaning tasks (staff)



Shared/Common Spaces

Schools and school divisions should review the following guidelines before opening shared/common spaces:

- Monitor access to the facility to avoid congestion. Establish a separate entrance to the facility, or stagger hours for each limited purpose where possible.
- Ensure that groups of more than 25 people do not occupy a shared space at any given time.
- Ensure washrooms and lunchrooms are sanitized frequently, and monitor them to ensure appropriate physical distancing.
- Water fountains that are not touchless or cannot be cleaned between users must be turned off.
- Encourage outdoor activities. Outdoor spaces and playground structures can be used.
- Limit travel within the school throughout the day.
- Avoid sharing items to the greatest extent possible. Reinforce among children that sharing food or water bottles is not allowed.
- Students must bring their own lunches, or provided lunches must be individually wrapped in disposable containers.



Options for Consideration

Schools should ensure adherence to the most up-to-date public health orders and recommendations whenever school facilities are being accessed. School administrators may consider the following options for school use:

- **Childcare centres** located in schools or on school property in all school divisions are able to stay open or reopen to provide temporary childcare services in accordance with all existing public health and program guidelines (see www.gov.mb.ca/covid19/restoring/phase-two.html).
- **Sports, band, and other extracurricular activities** can resume in school settings while following physical distancing and other public health guidelines. Choirs or musical theatre activities will not be allowed, due to a higher risk of transmission through singing as compared to speaking.
- For use of schools during **day camps and summer programming**, the maximum number of children permitted per site is 24, while occupancy and activity levels are maintained to ensure people keep a physical distance of at least two metres, except for brief exchanges. Multiple groups of 24 can be segregated to prevent contact throughout the day with other groups through the use of separate exits or staggered drop-off schedules, and by monitoring access to the facility to avoid congestion. Overnight camps are not permitted.

- In addition to general public health guidance for businesses, other important considerations include:
 - Screening must occur before each day at drop-off. Children with symptoms are not allowed to attend. Screening should follow the infection prevention measures above.
 - Child care centre sanitation and infection prevention guidelines must be followed. For detailed information, visit www.gov.mb.ca/fs/childcare/resources/pubs/infection_control.pdf.
 - Disinfect surfaces frequently.
 - Be outdoors as much as possible. Promote individual activity to minimize contact. Contact sports or games or the use shared equipment is strongly discouraged. Remove toys, craft,s and books that are not easily sanitized.
 - Encourage extra handwashing for staff and campers.
 - Stagger meals/snacks/naps and encourage physical distance between campers.