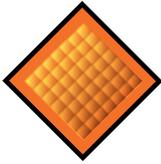


# MANITOBA PANDEMIC RESPONSE SYSTEM

Schools should prepare to implement additional public health measures under Orange or Red if and when public health officials direct schools and/or school divisions or regions to move to the Restricted level (Orange) or Critical level (Red) of the pandemic response system.



## Measures for Kindergarten to Grade 12 schools at the Restricted level

### Distancing/Cohorts

- All students are in class learning unless otherwise directed by public health officials (i.e., a class or cohort may be directed by public health officials to isolate because of an outbreak within that class or cohort).
- Schools must ensure two metres of physical distancing to the greatest extent possible and adjust classroom space as necessary; excess furniture must be removed from classrooms to create additional space; other spaces within schools must be repurposed to accommodate more distancing (e.g., multipurpose rooms, shared spaces, common areas, and libraries).
- Students in K to 6 must remain within cohorts, at all times. Keep the cohort size as small as feasible to avoid large group disruptions to in-person learning. Ensure that cohorts are separated during the lunch hour/eating time.
- Use of wind instruments and singing are only permitted if all applicable public health measures are followed and two metres (six feet) distancing can be maintained.
- Minimize congestion in the school and shift assemblies to virtual delivery.
- In K to 6, limit the use of sharing toys, play stations and manipulatives. Ensure hand hygiene before and after use.

### Masks

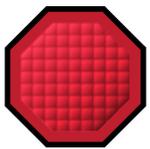
- Non-medical masks are required indoors for all K to 12 students. This requirement includes wearing masks in the classroom and while riding the bus. Masks may be removed indoors for the purpose of eating, drinking and short, infrequent mask breaks where there is physical distancing of two metres (six feet).
- Teachers and staff who move across cohorts of students, including substitute teachers, are required to wear medical-grade masks. Staff who do not move across cohorts but determine that they are at higher risk of COVID-19, including at a higher risk of exposure (e.g., difficulty distancing in the early years), or who are unimmunized are recommended to wear medical masks. Medical-grade disposable masks have been issued to all schools. N95 masks are not required.
- Students must wear a mask while in the gym, even while participating in the athletic activity.

## Sports and Extracurricular Activities

- School sports may be offered provided all applicable public health measures are followed. Effective December 6, 2021, proof of at least one dose of vaccination, or a recent (within 72 hours) negative rapid test result will be required for 12 to 17 year olds for indoor extracurricular sports.
- Overnight trips and camps are only permitted where proof of at least one dose of vaccination or a recent (within 72 hours) negative rapid test result is provided for youth ages 12 to 17.
- For children in K to 6, extracurricular activities, including intramurals, are permitted if distancing requirements are met. Activities should not proceed if they involve more than one cohort.

### Please note:

- All other public health measures are still in effect.
- Manitoba Education and public health officials continue to monitor the situation closely and will continue to advise if additional measures are warranted.



## Measures for Kindergarten to Grade 12 schools at the Critical level

### Distancing/Cohorts

- Schools must ensure two metres of physical distancing.
- If two metres or six feet of physical distancing cannot be achieved, blended learning for K to 12 can be implemented.
- Schools will accommodate K to 6 children of critical service workers who cannot make alternative care arrangements if they are not required to self-isolate. In addition, schools will also accommodate K to 12 high-risk students and those with special needs. Manitoba Education considers the following to be critical services workers:
  - Health/health services workers
  - K to 12 education providers (all teachers, administrators, and support staff)
  - Child care workers
  - Law enforcement
  - Corrections workers
  - Fire and paramedic first responders
  - Direct social services and child protection workers

*Additional critical services workers may include people who provide critical services to Manitobans, such as front-line natural resource workers, essential supply chain staff (e.g., truck drivers delivering food, medications and other essential goods; food industry staff working in food processing plants, etc.) gas station attendants, and grocery store staff.*

- Students must remain within cohorts for K to 6.

- Only essential visitors are allowed. Community use of schools is prohibited.
- Busing will be based on divisions' discretion. Urban, rural and northern school divisions will continue to transport children of critical service workers, students with special needs and students at risk who do not have other means of transportation.

## **Masks**

- Mask guidance remains the same as in Restricted level (Orange).

## **Physical Education, Music, and Extracurricular Activities**

- Schools may also continue to offer physical education, provided all public health measures are followed, including physical distancing.
- All field trips must be postponed or cancelled. Overnight trips and camps are suspended.
- Extracurricular school sports, intramurals, and clubs are suspended.
- Playing wind instruments and singing are suspended.
- Only virtual assemblies are allowed.

## **Please Note:**

- All other public health measures are still in effect.
- School-wide remote learning is a measure of last resort and will be directed by public health officials.
- Manitoba Education and public health officials will continue to monitor the situation closely and will advise if additional measures are warranted.