



Monday, November 30, 2020

As we prepare to enter the holiday season COVID-19 rages on across the globe. Our community has recently experienced a large influx of COVID-19 cases and as a school system we continue to adapt to direction from the Province of Manitoba. Since we initially surveyed parents and had them identify if they are Critical Services Workers the Province has made some changes to what happens if schools move to [Critical \(Red\) on the Pandemic Response System](#).

Public Health declares a Critical (Red) response level when there is widespread, uncontrolled, community transmission of Covid-19. Their goal is to reduce as much as possible the number of people in public places and the number of potential transmissions of Covid-19.

In a Critical (Red) response, schools are closed to students, with the exception of Kindergarten to Grade 6 students who are children of critical services workers (CSWs) who cannot make alternative care arrangements. Schools are also required to accommodate children over age 12 if their parent is a CSW who requires care and the child has a disability that precludes them from being able to stay at home independently. If there is another caregiver in the home, or on days that Critical Service Workers are not at work, then the students should participate in remote learning from home. This is in keeping with the primary intent of providing supervision at school, while parents and caregivers perform critical services.

During a Critical (Red) response level, schools are not responsible for student transportation or supervision of students outside of regular school hours.

When schools are in Critical Red:

- All students move to teacher-led remote learning.
- Schools and school divisions will endeavour to accommodate K–6 children of critical services workers who cannot make alternative care arrangements so that these students may attend school. While at school, these students will participate in and receive support for the same teacher-led remote learning that their classmates who are learning from home are receiving.
- Students over age 12 who are children of critical services workers and who have disabilities or special needs that preclude them from staying home independently, may also be accommodated at the school and receive supervision and remote learning support.

Minimum standards for student participation in real-time online instruction and independent schoolwork are outlined in [Manitoba Education Standards for Remote Learning](#).

As cases increase in our area we anticipate our school system could be moved to Critical Red at any time. Schools will reach out to families directly to formally register children of CSW’s for supervised remote learning at school.

We are grateful for your support to date and wish you a safe, happy COVID free holiday season!

Respectfully,

Stephen Ross
Superintendent

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