



Thursday, May 27, 2021

Western School Division students, parents and staff,

I felt it was important to provide the following information to our community in regards to why all schools in Western School Division are not moving to Remote Learning.

Today the division was instructed to move **Minnewasta School to Remote Learning for the week of May 31<sup>st</sup> to June 4<sup>th</sup>**. Minnewasta students are slated to **return to in class learning on Monday, June 7<sup>th</sup>**.

As the pandemic school year has progressed the flexibility for schools and school divisions to initiate Remote Learning has evolved. In the fall, we had the opportunity to consider temporary remote learning, and when it was appropriate, we initiated that opportunity for families. At the present time school divisions can only move schools to remote learning for 1-2 days to allow Manitoba Education and the Public Health to determine whether a school should transition to remote learning for an extended period of time. Manitoba Education and Public Health determine when schools will transition to Remote Learning.

At this time, based on different circumstances in each of our other schools, they continue to remain safely open. Communities and school divisions which have had all of their schools move to remote learning have done so as Public Health has believed there was the potential for transmission within all of their schools due to the pervasiveness of COVID cases in the community.

Both the division and the schools are in regular contact with Public Health and Manitoba Education, and although there have been some COVID cases within Morden which affect students and staff, there does not appear to be transmission in schools.

This has been a challenging year for everyone, and we are thankful for the support our community has consistently shown. We appreciate students and staff staying home when they are sick, following COVID protocols when at school, and doing all the things that will help us get back to normal.

We wish you all the best as the school year winds down. I can assure you that we are working hard to not only ensure schools are safe for students and staff, but that your children continue to be provided with high quality learning opportunities so that they, and our community may continue to thrive!

Respectfully,

*Stephen Ross*

Superintendent of Schools

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