



November 6, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

In the attached survey, we are seeking your feedback on two important matters today.

Through their Pandemic Response System, the province has outlined some measures that will be in place when schools are in response levels **Green (Limited Risk)**, **Yellow (Caution)**, **Orange (Restricted)** and **Red (Critical)**.

Until last week, we have operated as Yellow (Caution) throughout the school year.

On Monday Nov 2<sup>nd</sup>, Public Health moved all schools in the province to the Orange (Restricted). During Orange (Restricted) there are some minimal changes happening at schools. These have been addressed in other communication to parents but can be found [here](#) for your review.

**Today** Public Health moved the Southern Health region to Red (Critical) level as of Monday, November 9th. The Red (Critical) restrictions are for the region, but schools will remain in Orange (Restricted) level.

Here is some background information about learning in both Orange (Restricted) and Red (Critical) levels.

### **ORANGE (Restricted)**

We know that for most students, their best learning happens in school and they benefit socially and emotionally from having ongoing in-person contact with schools, staff and their peers. It is important for us that schools remain open to students and that in-class learning continues. However, during the **Orange (Restricted)** level, school divisions may consider offering temporary remote learning for some students, when those students can be supported from home. Western School Division is not currently offering temporary remote learning as an option for K-8 families.

We are contemplating several factors in determining whether offering a temporary learning option to our students and families would be appropriate. For example, we will assess the impact of **Orange (Restricted)** on current school attendance, the status of active COVID-19 cases in our community, and the expressions of interest from our students and families, to determine the degree of need for such a learning option.

Board of Trustees: Brian Fransen, David Guenther, Barb Petkau, Robyn Wiebe, Darcy Wolfe

**STEPHEN ROSS**  
Superintendent/CEO

**CARL PEDERSEN**  
Secretary/Treasurer

**MARIANNE FENN**  
Interim Assistant Superintendent

**ALLAN TOEWS**  
Operations



In our survey today, we are seeking to determine if any of our families would want their child(ren) to participate in temporary remote learning should it be offered by Western School Division.

- It is important to note that your child(ren) will need support at home if you select this option.
- Students who are enrolled in temporary remote learning will be connected to a teacher from our school division, but may not be with the same classroom teacher or classmates from their in-school learning.

### **Temporary Remote Learning Standards Include:**

- **Real-time online instruction will be provided for:**
  - 5–6 hours per week for students in Grades 1–4;
  - 7-8 hours per week for students in Grades 5–8.
  - Kindergarten teachers will connect with each student, along with parents/caregivers, a minimum of once per week to facilitate connection and provide support and play-based learning ideas. Kindergarten students will not receive real-time online instruction.
- **Independent work for students at home:**
  - Grades 1–4: Two and a half hours per day
  - Grades 5-8: Three hours per day
  - Kindergarten students should engage in independent work and play to complete the weekly activities.

In the attached survey, you will have an opportunity to provide your feedback about this option.

### **RED (Critical)**

In the future, if the schools in Western School Division are shifted into to a Red (**Critical**) response level under the Manitoba Pandemic Response System, schools and school divisions will do our best to accommodate Kindergarten to Grade 6 children of **Critical Services Workers (CSWs)**, where alternative care arrangements are not available.

To prepare for this possibility, in our survey we are providing Manitoba Education’s definition of CSWs and asking for you to identify if any parents/caregivers meet the definition of CSWs in your household. There is also an option for you to ask for accommodation for your child to continue in-school learning in the event of Red (**Critical**) level.

Board of Trustees: Brian Fransen, David Guenther, Barb Petkau, Robyn Wiebe, Darcy Wolfe

**WESTERN**  
School Division  
Morden, Manitoba



*“Rooted In Caring;  
Committed to Learning”*

Unit 4 – 75 Thornhill Street  
Morden, Manitoba  
Canada R6M 1P2

Phone (204) 822-4448

Fax (204) 822-4262

E-mail: [divoff@westernsd.mb.ca](mailto:divoff@westernsd.mb.ca)

[www.westernsd.mb.ca](http://www.westernsd.mb.ca)

Whether in person or online, we are here to support you. We will continue to work with public health officials to ensure all necessary health measures are in place. We care about your safety and well-being and your child(ren)’s education. Thank you for your understanding and support.

To collect feedback from families, we are seeking your response to the attached survey as soon as possible, but please ensure you complete prior to the end of day Tuesday, November 10<sup>th</sup>.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/WSD2020-11>

*Stephen Ross*

Superintendent of Schools/CEO  
Western School Division

*Marianne Fenn*

Interim Assistant Superintendent  
Western School Division

Board of Trustees: Brian Fransen, David Guenther, Barb Petkau, Robyn Wiebe, Darcy Wolfe

**STEPHEN ROSS**  
Superintendent/CEO

**CARL PEDERSEN**  
Secretary/Treasurer

**MARIANNE FENN**  
Interim Assistant Superintendent

**ALLAN TOEWS**  
Operations