



Evergreen School Division

Box 1200 • Gimli, Manitoba • R0C 1B0 • Ph. (204) 642-6260 • Fax (204) 642-7273 • www.esd.ca

Public Update # 3

October 6, 2020

Dear Community Members,

The impact of the pandemic continues to dominate the news regarding our schools. Notwithstanding the importance of continued responsiveness to the evolving public health directives, it is important to also celebrate the following success:

- Students and staff have adjusted to the new routines of handwashing, physical distancing, staggered schedules and cohorts.
- Use of masks is the new ‘normal’ in schools. We are so proud of our students’ commitment to mask use to keep themselves, and one another safe.
- Parents and students are making use of the daily screening tool to determine when it is safe to come to school. On occasion when symptoms appeared during the day, parents and caregivers have responded well to the need to take home children who are ill.
- Our transportation system continues to transport all eligible children who are not able to make other arrangements.

As part of our continued commitment to keep you informed, please note the new and updated information below.

1. *When will we know if the pandemic response level changes in schools?*

Public health determines which pandemic response level is appropriate for each setting. It is possible, as is presently the case in Winnipeg and surrounding areas, that the region and communities are identified as “orange” while schools are still set at “yellow.” Although this may seem confusing and contradictory, public health explains that these decisions are based on a variety of public health indicators regarding risk. Changes to schools’ response level will be communicated by the school. More information is available at <https://www.gov.mb.ca/covid19/restartmb>

2. *Will I be notified if there is a positive case of COVID-19 in my child’s school?*

When a case of COVID-19 is confirmed, public health officials will lead the response. Local public health authorities will identify close contacts of a positive case and contact those individuals who may have been exposed. The Division will send letters to families when a case is suspected or confirmed in a school.

3. *What should I do if my child is sick?*

Public health advice is captured in the infographic linked [here](#).

4. *When can a sick child return to school?*

Public health advice is captured in the infographic linked [here](#).

5. *If someone in the household has tested positive for COVID, can the children attend school?*



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Public health will notify close contacts that they need to self-isolate (quarantine) at home for 14 days after their last contact with a person who tested positive. Depending on the circumstances, schools may not be made aware of who is required to self-isolate.

6. *Why wear a mask?*

Wearing a mask in addition to practicing public health fundamentals, may help prevent the spread of COVID-19 to others, especially in indoor public places. Recent evidence suggests that it provides protection to the wearer, as well as others. <https://apple.news/ARh1tAZt5TMS5IZg1F7CmA>

7. *What do I need to know in case we move to on-line learning?*

Schools will be gathering information regarding your family's potential needs regarding connectivity and access to devices.

8. *Will on-line learning look different if/when we move to that again?*

Yes. Daily attendance will be expected on-line. Teachers will require students to be connected in real-time for instruction and group work, and will also expect students to participate in independent work and regular one to one meetings with the teacher. More information is available at https://www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/covid/support/remote_learn_standards.html

9. *Will students in grade 12 be expected to write provincial standards exams?*

All grade 12 standards exams are cancelled for January. A decision will follow in February for the June exams.

10. *What about graduations? Should we bother planning for safe grads?*

It is too early to know how public health measures will influence what kind of convocation ceremonies and safe grad celebrations will be possible. We will, of course, celebrate our graduates with an event that meets the safety protocols in place. Fundraising and other graduation planning may begin, with the understanding that plans must be flexible.

11. *What about Halloween?*

Public Health will forward recommendations about Halloween that will be distributed by schools.

When we hear the news across Manitoba and in other jurisdictions, we are reminded that although our present circumstances are relatively good, this can change quickly. *We continue to need your help to keep our children safe by encouraging compliance with public health direction.*

Yours sincerely,

Roza Gray,
Superintendent



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