



Evergreen School Division

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

January 5, 2022

Dear Parents/Caregivers and Staff:

To reduce the spread of the highly transmissible omicron variant and to accommodate expected staffing shortages while preparing for a phased in return to in person classes, Manitoba Education has announced a period of remote learning for all students for January 10 to 14th 2022. Please be advised of the following, for the period of January 10 to 14th, 2022.

Remote learning

- Schools will communicate details regarding remote learning before the end of this week
Please note:
 - To the greatest extent possible, virtual classes will be scheduled on a rotation during the day so that children can share devices at home.
 - Kindergarten students will not have virtual classes; however, teachers will suggest sample learning activities and will call families next week to check in.
 - Students with special needs are eligible to attend school next week. Student services staff will be in touch with families this week to determine student programming.
 - A limited number of laptops/ devices will be available for borrowing from schools.
 - Parent resources to support well-being and learning at home can be found [here](#)
- *K-6 children of critical service workers are eligible for in-school supervision if other childcare arrangements cannot be made. While at school, these children will receive the same remote learning as their counterparts at home.*
 - Manitoba Education defines critical service workers to include:
 - Health/Health Services Workers
 - Kindergarten to Grade 12 Education Providers (all teachers, administrators, and support staff)
 - Childcare Workers
 - Law Enforcement
 - Corrections Workers
 - Fire and Paramedic First Responders
 - Direct Social Services and Child Protection Workers
 - Children whose parents work in other critical service occupations and who cannot make other child-care arrangements will also be provided supervision in our schools.
 - Please complete the survey linked [here](#)
 - by **Thursday January 6 at 4:00 pm** if your family meets the criteria above and will require a child to come to school for supervision next week.
 - Transportation will be available for eligible children of critical service workers, subject to driver availability.



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Rapid test kits

- The Division has not yet received any test kits to distribute to families with children in Kindergarten to Grade 6.
- We expect that kits (5 tests per child in grade K-6) will be available for pick up at schools next week for those families who have indicated they would like one.
- If you are a parent/caregiver of child in K-6 and have not already requested a test kit, you may contact the school to request one. If sufficient supply is available, kits will be distributed on a priority basis.
- Schools will communicate details regarding distribution of test kits in the coming days.

Access to schools

- Community use of schools is prohibited at this time.
- Visitors to our schools will be restricted and are required by appointment.
- Prior arrangements for material pick up will be arranged by schools.

Related public health guidance

- Community members and staff are encouraged to limit their contacts, get vaccinated as soon as they are eligible and to self-isolate when sick.
- Anyone who has symptoms is required to isolate for 10 days if unvaccinated, or 5 days if vaccinated, provided symptoms are resolving and masks are worn.
 - Testing guidance is found [here](#)
 - Isolation guidance is found [here](#)
 - At this time of change, please watch for additional communication from your child's school and the Division. Schools will communicate directly with families in the coming days regarding the period of remote learning, and the Division will communicate additional information next week regarding our return to schools on January 17th.

We have entered our third calendar year of the pandemic. As always, we thank you for your understanding and support as we continue to adjust to the changes required to keep students and staff safe.

Wishing you a healthy and happy new year,

Roza Gray
Superintendent and CEO