



Evergreen School Division

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

March 13, 2020

Dear Evergreen Community,

Manitoba has now confirmed its first cases of COVID-19 and we expect that the number of cases reported will be increasing. In consultation with both Manitoba Education and Manitoba Health, schools in Manitoba will remain open until March 20, 2020. Effective March 23, 2020 schools will be closed for three weeks as a proactive measure to reduce the spread of the virus.

While schools remain open, Divisions are being asked to share the following proactive and preventative strategies with all people in our school communities:

- Practice social distancing where possible, which means maintaining at least 2 metres distance from others, limiting close proximity to less than 10 minutes, and avoiding physical contact like hand shaking. The reality of our schools and buses is such that this recommended measure is difficult, and at times, not possible to achieve.
- Practice more frequent and adequate hygiene practices, which means increased hand washing, minimizing the touching of one's own face, and wiping down high contact surfaces.
- Stay home if you are sick, and contact Health Links-Info Santé if you are symptomatic (i.e. coughing, fever, runny nose, sore throat or shortness of breath) at 1-204-788-9257 or toll free at 1-888-315-9257

The information regarding COVID-19 is rapidly evolving, so it is important for each of us to remain informed. The following links will assist you in having current and accurate information:

<https://www.who.int/>

<https://www.gov.mb.ca/health/publichealth/factsheets/coronavirus.pdf>

<https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection.html>

Evergreen School Division will continue to communicate with stakeholders regarding an evolving strategy moving forward. It is essential that each of us be attentive, flexible, and to take both personal and collective responsibility to protect ourselves and each other. As this virus spreads, we will be guided by local, national and international health authorities, governments and agencies that are best positioned to inform our decisions and to help us navigate effective actions.



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In an effort to prevent, manage, and isolate/limit exposure to the virus, the Division will be implementing the following measures beginning Monday, March 16, 2020 and until further notice:

- cancelling all field trips
- cancelling all non-essential meetings, gatherings, assemblies, presentations, and other large group events including upcoming parent/teacher and student-led conferences
- cancelling non-essential leave including attendance at professional development sessions
- cancelling extra-curricular activities
- cancelling all community use of school or divisional space

These measures are necessary to ensure that we can attend to our primary responsibilities regarding teaching and learning. Further, these actions will limit undue strain on staff.

We expect anyone exhibiting signs or feeling flu-like symptoms to stay home from school until healthy enough to attend. We also request that staff and families self-report illnesses to the school. Schools will be closely monitoring staff and students for signs of illness and will contact parents and guardians should any concerning symptoms be observed. As always, parents and guardians have the right to keep their child at home if they feel that is the best option for their child or children's safety, but would ask your cooperation with informing the school of this choice.

We would also encourage families and community members to limit any of their own non-essential travel plans in order to help minimize the potential of spreading the COVID-19.

All of the above are in keeping with the recommendations provided by Manitoba Health. Please call if you have questions or wish to clarify any of the above information.

Be well and stay healthy.

Sincerely,

Roza Gray
Superintendent/CEO