



Evergreen School Division

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

September 16, 2021

Dear Parents/Caregivers and Staff:

We share a common focus to return to a more typical school year while following public health direction to keep our children and staff safe. Please note the following updates for Evergreen School Division based on recent information made available by Manitoba Education and Public Health.

1. **Return to play:** Organized team sports are permitted, and practices are underway.
 - a) **Protocols:** All current public health orders and sport specific return to play protocols must be followed. Currently, this includes mask wearing for all indoor sports. At this time, vaccinations are not a requirement for student participation in sports.
 - b) **Travel:** Transportation will occur by school bus. No shared private transportation (carpooling) is permitted.
 - c) **Competition:** Middle years: In Division play only. High School: Zone play only. No overnight trips are permitted. More information will follow regarding provincials.
 - d) **Spectators:** At this time, no spectators are permitted.
2. **Visitors in Schools:** To protect students and staff, visitors are restricted. Limited exceptions are at the discretion of the principal: scheduled meetings in the school may occur provided all public health guidance is followed.
3. **Community use of Schools:** Community access to the schools has been delayed until additional guidance is provided by public health. We anticipate this guidance will be provided by the end of September.
4. **Vaccination clinics in schools:** Direction from Manitoba Education on September 13, 2021 communicates: "To increase access to the vaccine, public health teams will be offering a COVID-19 mRNA vaccine to in schools this fall... Students born on or before December 31, 2009, who are not fully vaccinated with two doses of the COVID-19 mRNA vaccine will be eligible. Informed consent is the foundation of all public health immunization programs for children and youth. Parental consent will be sought for all children and youth who wish to receive a COVID-19 vaccine in schools during school hours. **Only children with parental consent or children over the age of 16 or older who can provide their own consent will participate in clinics during school hours.**" Additional information will follow including: dates /times of the clinics, the consent process and forms and information about the COVID-19 mRNA vaccine.
5. **Proof of vaccination or mandatory testing** Any division employee who is not yet fully vaccinated by the time mandatory testing begins will need to undergo regular testing until such time as fully vaccinated. Testing is expected to begin next week. Additional details will follow directly to employees affected. At this time there are no valid or legitimate exemptions from the requirement for proof of vaccination or mandatory testing as public health indicates there are an 'exceedingly small number of medical conditions or situations that would preclude someone from being immunized.'

Thank you for your co-operation and support with implementing public health guidance.