



# St. James-Assiniboia School Division

## *Great Schools for Growing and Learning*

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Superintendent

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January 14, 2022

Dear Parents/Guardians/Caregivers,

All Manitoba K-12 schools are preparing to open on January 17<sup>th</sup>, 2022, in [Pandemic Level- Restricted \(Orange\)](#). The following overview includes the measures that SJASD schools have taken in addition to current public health orders, to best maintain a healthy student population and workforce.

Should a class/cohort be moved to remote learning due to increased COVID-19 transmission, information will be provided to families as soon as possible. Please be sure to regularly check your email registered at the school for updates and important information.

We do anticipate staff shortages during this period of increased COVID-19 communicability, and we have made contingency plans to reassign staff accordingly. As a last resort, *in the case of extenuating circumstances where staff absences are unfilled*, the school will announce the temporary closure of classrooms. In this case, schools will send information via **email and social media** to families, the evening prior to the next day of school (after 9:00 pm), as best as possible. Depending on the extent of absences of school staff, temporary measures of remote learning may also be required.

As Public Health has recently announced, there is a transition to self-management of positive COVID-19 cases. **This requires families to communicate any instances of positive COVID-19 cases to the school as soon as possible.** We also ask that parents contact the school to let them know if their child has symptoms that are presumptive of COVID-19. Thank you to all families for your diligence in reporting COVID-19 related absences to schools to this point, we rely on your continued communication and support to keep schools as safe as possible. In the case of significant changes in school absenteeism, Administrators will notify the school community and contact public health for consultation.

Please review the updated protocols below and direct any questions to our school general inquires email [strathmillan@sjasd.ca](mailto:strathmillan@sjasd.ca). The fundamentals will remain important as we continue to move through the school year. These practices will continue to guide us on lowering our risk and will help to reduce Manitoba's COVID-19 cases throughout the province and our schools. For information on the fundamentals, please see: [Province of Manitoba - Focus on the Fundamentals](#).

Thank you for your continued support.

Jonathan Baker



## SJASD Restricted (Orange) Level Parent Guide

*\*Pending January 14<sup>th</sup> Manitoba Education updates  
(Some information subject to change)*

January 14, 2022

Topic	Action
<b>Illness Procedures/ COVID Testing</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="#">Daily self-screening</a> of COVID-19 is required.</li><li>• Should a student feel ill at any time, they are to complete the <a href="#">COVID-19 screener</a> and determine isolation or testing actions. At this time, anyone with symptoms of COVID-19 is to consider themselves a positive case.</li><li>• Students and/or staff who are showing symptoms of COVID-19 are to follow public health guidance on self-isolation and testing. For more information, please visit <a href="#">Isolation Requirements and Exemptions</a>.</li><li>• An up-to-date list of symptoms can be found at the <a href="#">Province of Manitoba's COVID-19 information page</a>.</li></ul>
<b>Cohorts/Physical Distancing</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• All students are in class learning unless otherwise directed by public health officials (i.e., a class or cohort may be directed by public health officials to isolate because of an outbreak within that class or cohort).</li><li>• Physical distancing is maximized to the greatest extent possible towards 2 meters.</li><li>• Students in K to 6 continue to remain within cohorts, at all times. Cohort size is kept as small as feasible. Cohorts are separated during the lunch hour/eating time.</li><li>• Congestion in the school is minimized during entry and exit time. All assemblies continue virtually.</li><li>• In K to 6, sharing toys, play stations and manipulatives is minimized and hand hygiene practices will continue before and after use.</li></ul>
<b>Classroom Cancellations/Closures</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• In extenuating circumstances where staff absences are unfilled, we may be required to temporarily close/cancel classes.</li><li>• Schools will send information via email and social media to families <u>after 9:00 p.m. the night before</u>, as best as possible.</li><li>• This may affect whole classrooms and/or individual students.</li></ul>



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<p><b>Transportation</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Transportable families should watch for School Messenger notifications in the case of route cancellations.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Community Notifications</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As of January 17, 2022, the notification of COVID-19 cases in schools has changed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Notification of individual cases, corresponding close contact notification, and staff/ school community letters will no longer be forwarded to families in response to a positive case in schools. Staff and students may continue to attend school if they are asymptomatic.</li> <li><b>Parents/ caregivers are encouraged to report positive COVID-19 cases to the school.</b></li> <li>When an increase in absenteeism is experienced, Administrators will investigate and activate the appropriate measures to contact public health and notify the school community.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>Remote Learning</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In situations where a whole classroom is directed to isolate, smooth learning transitions will be needed. Classroom teachers will ensure these students stay connected to ongoing learning by providing remote learning. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Devices are to be offered from schools for families in need.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Families who qualify for the Manitoba Remote Learning Support Centre (K-8) can follow the referral process via their school administrator.</li> <li>Families who have concerns about following COVID-19 protocols can inquire about homeschooling options with the Manitoba Education <a href="#">Homeschooling Office</a>.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Masks and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Masks must be well fitted, close to the face, and constructed of 3 layers of material.</li> <li>Masks must be worn at all times indoors, in common areas and while on school buses.</li> <li>All staff are to wear medical grade masks as approved by public health.</li> <li>Students are to wear a <u>well-fitting mask</u> with at least three layers (cloth masks are allowed). Students will be provided with masks if needed.</li> <li>Students must wear masks during physical education/sports activities, even while participating in the athletic activity.</li> </ul>



Topic	Action
<b>Mask Breaks</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mask breaks will be provided periodically throughout the day when students are seated and at appropriate physical distances:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ When outdoors during instructional periods (not including beginning and end of day entry and exit)</li> <li>○ Grade 7-12: When seated in class at 2 metre distance.</li> <li>○ Grades K-6: When seated in their cohorts, at 2 metre physical distancing (as best as possible).</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>School Vaccination Clinics</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kindergarten to Grade 6 schools will continue to work with Public Health in hosting vaccination clinics for 5–11-year-old students, with opportunities for afterschool pop-up clinics to support community uptake.</li> <li>• Only first dose appointments will be available at this time, unless specified otherwise.</li> </ul>
<b>Music/Band</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All music and band activities must follow physical distancing requirements of 2 meters or more. Rows must be staggered and masks must be worn while singing or while wind and brass instrumentalists are not playing. All other guidance is to follow the <a href="#">current guidelines</a>.</li> </ul>
<b>Physical Education/ Intramurals</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Students must wear masks during indoor physical education classes and intramurals (during the school day), even while participating in the athletic activity.</li> <li>• Intramurals, before/after school clubs (including the fitness centre), lunch hour activities may proceed providing:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ K-6 students remain in their cohorts for the activity.</li> <li>○ Grade 7-12 student attendance is recorded, and physical distancing is maintained through the activity.</li> <li>○ Masks are worn at all times.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Sports/ Extracurriculars</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provincial sports organizations continue to direct our return to play planning.</li> <li>• Vaccination requirements remain in place for 12- to 17-year-old students participating in indoor extracurricular sports.</li> <li>• No tournaments are allowed at this time. League games only.</li> </ul>
<b>Spectators</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Events will be live streamed for the month of January.</li> </ul>
<b>Visitors</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Visitors are limited and only permitted for essential purposes.</li> </ul>



Topic	Action
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Ventilation</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Division is following the provincial guidelines on ventilation for schools and focused on improving ventilation.</li> <li>• The occupied operation of the ventilation equipment has been adjusted to 06:00 am to 06:00 pm to provide pre- and post-purge of the air in the occupied space.</li> <li>• The amount of outdoor air introduced into the ventilation equipment has been adjusted to as much as possible based on outdoor air temperature limits.</li> <li>• Filter inspections are completed monthly, and filters are changed as required. Each ventilation unit has been upgraded to the highest efficiency filters recommended.</li> </ul>

### **Additional Information and Resources:**

For the most up to date Manitoba COVID-19 information, see <https://www.gov.mb.ca/covid19/index.html>

For the latest COVID-19 Education News, see <https://www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/covid/index.html>

Resources to Support Mask Usage:

- [Manitoba Government - Wear It Well: A Mask How-To for Kids \(video\)](#)
- [Mask usage poster \(8.5 x 11\)](#)
- [Mask usage poster \(11 x 17\)](#)
- [COVID-19: How to wear a non-medical mask or face covering properly \(Middle and Senior Years students and staff\) \(video\)](#)
- [UNICEF: Why masks are important - Why masks are important - \(for Early Years/elementary students\) \(video\)](#)

