



Welcoming Our Students Back: Fall School Opening 2021-22 Parent Guide

August 26, 2021

Topic	Instruction
COVID-19 Protocols	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Self-screening protocols are to be followed prior to building entry and throughout the school day. • Mandatory mask wearing, hand hygiene practices, and physical distancing will continue to be followed. • Cleaning and disinfecting will focus on high-touch surfaces and common areas. • Touchless water drinking practices will be followed using touchless water fountains and water bottles. • Proper hand hygiene practices will be implemented when students are required to share materials. • School and classroom libraries are open for use.
Illness Procedures/ COVID Testing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any person that is symptomatic of COVID-19 as per the self-screening criteria (linked above) are to follow the COVID-19 protocols re: testing and/or following isolation guidelines. • Any person who is symptomatic is not to attend school in any capacity and is encouraged to be tested for COVID-19 (even if vaccinated). • At this time, Public Health orders state that siblings/household members must isolate pending testing results or if a household member is a close contact to a confirmed COVID-19 case. • Health Links-Info Santé will provide the most up-to-date direction for vaccinated household members.
Transportation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Masks will be mandatory for all staff and students on buses. • Seating plans will remain in place. • High touch surfaces will be cleaned between runs. • No purchase seats are being offered at this time.
Cohorts/Physical Distancing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physical distancing is required to the greatest extent possible. • Screens & barriers will be used as much as possible to be able to provide mask breaks. • Schools will use cohorts for Kindergarten to Grade 6. • Schools will manage the flow of people in common areas to minimize crowding. Staggered entry and exit times may be implemented.
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<p>Masks and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Masks to be worn on buses (K-12). • Request for mask exemptions for medical accommodations must be communicated to the school principal. • Masks are to be worn upon student entry and exit at beginning and end of day, during common interactions, inclusive of school staff, students, and parents/visitors. • Recess/outdoor learning/outdoor PE classes: masks are not required at this time, providing there is staff supervision. • Staff are to wear medical masks until further notice. • Mask breaks will be provided periodically throughout the day when students are seated and at appropriate physical distances.
<p>Vaccination</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Front-line provincial employees must be fully vaccinated by October 31, 2021, or regularly tested, including education providers, teachers, assistants, bus drivers, and maintenance workers. • Grades 6-12 “catch up” immunization campaigns will start in schools in fall. Communication from Public Health will go directly to families for those eligible. • Public Health announced students with birthdays in 2009 are now eligible for Pfizer vaccines.
<p>Music/Band</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Music classes and band will be permitted in the fall. Further information on safety protocols is forthcoming.
<p>Sports</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provincial sports organizations will direct our return to play planning. • Ultimate, cross country, soccer, golf, flag football, flag rugby, are all sports for consideration at this time.
<p>Field Trips</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No field trips at this time.
<p>Cafeterias/Canteens/ Breakfast Programs/ Snack Programming</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All will be permitted at this time using safe food handling COVID-19 protocols.
<p>Visitors/Volunteers</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visitors/volunteers are permitted but will be limited. • Visitors/volunteers are required to wear masks and adhere to COVID-19 Public Health orders. • More information regarding volunteers will be forthcoming from the school.
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<p style="text-align: center;">Ventilation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schools will leverage outdoor activities where possible. • Windows will be open when possible. • Use of large spaces will be maximized. • Plans will be in place to ensure that congestion is minimized in common areas when transitioning and interacting in the school environment. • Air exchange monitoring and filtration routines have been increased.
<p style="text-align: center;">Remote Learning</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any students and/or immediate family members who are residing in the same household who are immunocompromised must discuss school attendance options with their school administrator. • As schools are open, there are no remote learning options for students who do not meet medical criteria. • Families who have concerns about following COVID-19 protocols can inquire about homeschooling options with the Manitoba Education Homeschooling Office.
<p style="text-align: center;">Provincial Assessments</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No Grade 12 provincial assessments. All other provincial assessments will continue as scheduled.
<p style="text-align: center;">Lockers</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lockers will not be issued at high schools at the start of September. This school operations topic will be revisited in October.

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>

