



# Park West School Division

Learners Today, Leaders Tomorrow

Stephen David  
Superintendent/CEO

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**Date:** Tuesday, September 6, 2022

**Topic:** **Welcome Back Students, Staff, and Families**

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On behalf of Board and staff of Park West School Division, we are excited to welcome our students, staff, and families to the start of the 2022-23 school year. This is often a time for reflection, preparation, and new beginnings. While the past two-and-a-half years have been challenging, this year offers a chance for renewed energy and increased opportunities for us to connect with the communities that we serve. We will continue to focus on strengthening teaching and learning, building relationships, and working together to ensure that we have safe, welcoming, and student-focused schools.

This year marks a return to many of the things that have been put aside during the pandemic. Collaborative learning among students and classes will resume. A variety of extracurricular opportunities will be available to enhance the school experience. Our schools will be open to the public including the resumption of community use.

The well-being of students and staff remains a top priority. The second and third pages of this document includes some information about risk mitigation plans.

Park West School Division appreciates the partnership and support of families and our communities. We look forward to making this a year filled with success and happiness for our students and staff.



## Back to School Planning for Park West

Park West School Division will continue to keep the health, safety, and wellbeing of students and staff as a top priority. As always, the Division will follow guidance from Manitoba Education and Public Health.

### Public Health Orders:

- All Public Health Orders regarding COVID-19 were lifted on March 22, 2022. What remains is guidance and/or recommendation from the Province.

### Community Notification Letters:

- Schools will no longer issue community notification letters for positive cases.
- If there is concern about an outbreak, the school principal, in consultation with the superintendent, will seek additional guidance from Public Health and initiate contact tracing and community notification if so directed.

### Contact Tracing:

- Public health officials no longer routinely recommend contact tracing.
- Close contacts of COVID-19 cases are not required to self-isolate (quarantine) if they do not have symptoms.
- If someone has symptoms, test positive, or are awaiting test results, all household members should **self-monitor** for symptoms COVID-19 for 14 days following exposure.

### Isolation:

- All students and staff are expected to monitor for signs and symptoms of COVID-19.
- If a student or member of the staff develops symptoms, they are advised to isolate (stay home); not attend school, childcare, or work; and follow public health.
- Park West will be following the Province of Manitoba's recommendations regarding isolation:
  - You should **isolate for 5 days** after your symptoms started and until you have no fever and your other symptoms have improved over the past 24 hours.
  - If you do not have symptoms and test positive, you should **isolate for 5 days** after your test date.

### Mask Use:

- We continue to ask that public health guidance on mask use be followed, and that schools ensure that individual choice regarding mask use is respected.
- If staff and students choose to wear masks, they are encouraged to bring their own masks. A supply will be available to schools in the short term for use when needed.

### **Rapid Tests:**

- Rapid Antigen Test (RAT) kits are available free of charge at many locations across the province.
- Schools may maintain a supply of rapid antigen tests for distribution to staff, students, and members of their school communities for use if they develop symptoms.

### **Transportation:**

- We are returning to pre-COVID practices with respect to school bus transportation:
  - While seating plans remain in place, students from different families may be seated together due to space limitations.
  - Non-eligible students may be transported on a school bus if a bus route is not extended, space permitting. Parents must communicate this request to bus drivers in advance (verbal/written communication methods are accepted). Bus drivers are responsible to track attendance of all passengers.

### **Travel:**

- Travel guidelines tend to change quickly. Families are expected to confirm the most recent travel requirements. The current travel guidelines are as follows:
  - Domestic travelers (travel within Canada) are no longer required to self-isolate (quarantine), however, they should self-monitor for symptoms for 14 days.
  - Individuals who have traveled internationally must follow Federal testing and isolation/ self-isolation (quarantine) requirements. They may be found at: <https://travel.gc.ca/travel-covid/travel-restrictions/isolation>
- There currently is no requirement for automatic isolation upon return from international travel. You must isolate for 10 days starting on the day you enter Canada if you:
  - Know that you have COVID-19 **or**
  - Show signs and symptoms of COVID-19 **or**
  - have received a positive result for any type of COVID-19 test taken less than 10 days before the day on which you enter Canada **or**
  - Have any other reasonable grounds to suspect you may have COVID-19
- If international travelers are required to isolate, isolation ends after the 10th day from the day on which you entered Canada.
- There is currently no vaccination requirement for school attendance in Manitoba or for international travel.
- The federal entry requirements for travel may be found at: <https://travel.gc.ca/travel-covid/travel-restrictions/flying-canada-checklist/covid-19-testing-travellers-coming-into-canada>

### **Additional Information:**

- Additional COVID-19 information may be found at: <https://www.gov.mb.ca/covid19/info-for-mbs.html>