



Date: Friday, January 14, 2022

Topic: Update for Parents, Guardians, and Staff

Move to Response Level Orange:

- On Monday, January 17, schools will move to the restricted (Orange) level on Manitoba's Pandemic Response System.
- Some key elements of this restricted level orange are as follows:
 - All students K-12 are in class learning.
 - Maximize two metres of physical distancing to the greatest extent possible.
 - Students must wear a mask while in the gym, even while participating in the athletic activity.
 - All teachers and staff, including substitute staff, are required to wear medical-grade masks.
- Additional information regarding restricted level orange may be found at: https://gov.mb.ca/asset_library/en/covid/mbprs_schools_orange_red.pdf

Extracurricular and Community Use:

- Extracurricular activities and community use will resume on January 17. Community use will be limited to activities for students in Grades K-12, including students from other divisions.

Remote Learning:

- Parents who are interested in remote learning instead of in-person learning should contact their school principal.
- Options include the Manitoba Remote Learning Centre for K-6 and InformNet and Teacher Mediated Options for Grades 9-12. Additional information on each of these may be found on the second page of this document.

Possible Staffing Challenges:

- It is possible that we may encounter some staffing challenges related to individuals who are isolating due to COVID-related matters.
- Should such staffing shortages arise, our first response will be using substitute staff or reallocating staff within a building. Schools may also need to reorganize student groups due to staff illness, isolation, or absenteeism. All efforts will be made to group students with their existing cohorts; however, students may be regrouped on a short-term, emergency basis.
- If staffing shortages become critical due to unmanageable absenteeism levels, we may have to implement temporary remote learning or temporary cancellations of classes and/or bus routes.

Case Management:

- Public Health has changed the process for reporting and tracking school COVID cases. Divisions are awaiting information on the revised school COVID Toolkit. Once received, we will update our procedures for communicating to parents.

Information Regarding Remote Learning Options for Students

Schools will support students who require short periods of remote learning related to COVID-19 isolation. However, the expectation of the province is that all students return to full-time attendance as of Monday, January 17. There are some remote learning options available for families who need to keep their children home for an extended period, or for children who have medical vulnerabilities. Families interested in these remote learning options should contact their school principal.

The Manitoba Remote Learning Centre for K-6:

- For the 2021-22 school year The Manitoba Remote Learning Support Centre teachers will offer English and French Immersion remote learning for students in Kindergarten to Grade 8.
- Remote Learning will be available to students who are immunocompromised or who reside with an immunocompromised family member. This has now been extended to include students with wellness needs that are beyond immunocompromised due to COVID-19.
- To access the remote learning program offered by the Manitoba Remote Learning Support Centre, please review the following referral process:
 - All Centre students must be referred by their resident school.
 - Contact your child's school to inquire about the referral process.
 - New student start dates can be found on the Centre [Calendar](#).
 - Once a student is referred to the Centre, a staff member will reach out to the school and the caregiver to learn more about the child and connect the child to a classroom in the Centre.
 - The classroom teacher will email the caregiver the information on the Friday before the Monday start date with necessary information to begin.
 - All students begin their journey in the Centre with a triad meeting that consists of the child, the caregiver and the teacher.
- Please note that students who are referred to the Centre should commit to attending for the rest of the school year to ensure consistent programming.
- For further information, please contact the Principal of the Manitoba Remote Learning Support Centre at principal@mbremotelearning.ca.

InformNet and Teacher Mediated Options for Grades 9-12:

- InformNet courses (offered by both the Pembina Trails and St. James-Assiniboia School Divisions in partnership with Manitoba Education) provide students with daily instruction, assignments and evaluation through regular email and web-based interaction from a certified high school teacher. The student's day school provides the course credit when subject requirements are met. Further information is available at <https://www.informnet.mb.ca/>
- Teacher Mediated Option delivers LIVE high school instruction via a virtual classroom to Manitoba students under the age of 21. Information is available at <http://tmopinecreeksd.weebly.com/>