



School District Re-opening Plan for the 2020/21 School Year  
School District of Mystery Lake August 28, 2020



## **School District Re-opening Plan for the 2020/21 School Year**

### **School District of Mystery Lake**

### **August 28, 2020**

### **Planning for Re-opening**

Schools will reopen for teachers and staff on September 2, 2020. In-class learning will resume on September 8th for students in all public and independent schools across the province. The following is the District framework; each school will have their own re-opening of school plan that will be shared with parents.

- Kindergarten to Grade 8 students will return for five days of in-class instruction (full instructional day) per week.
- Students in Grades 9 to 12 will return for up to five days per week of in-class instruction if high schools can effectively implement physical distancing and the use of cohorts to reduce the risk of transmission and to ensure documentation for contact tracing.
- Students with special needs in all grades will return for five days of in-class instruction (full instructional day) per week.

These policy and public health directions have been approved by the Chief Provincial Public Health Officer of Manitoba, and will help parents and families know what to expect when classes resume and where they can go for more information. Documents used for planning is the [Welcoming Our Students Back: Restoring Safe Schools](#). Plans are subject to change as per public health orders.

#### ***When returning to school in September:***

- Classrooms will be configured to support physical distancing with the use of alternate space as needed, such as multi-purpose rooms. Two metres of physical distancing is required to the greatest extent possible.
- **\*\*Revised\*\*** Masks offer an added layer of protection. With the updated guidance masks will be required for students in Grade 4 to 12, teachers, school staff, and visitors when physical distancing of two metres is not possible at school. Parents and caregivers will continue to choose whether younger students should wear a mask.
- Extra masks will be made available at all schools throughout the school year for those who do not have their own.

- Where physical distancing is not possible, students must remain within cohorts to reduce exposure to others. Cohorts will distance themselves from other groups to limit exposure. In these instances, there must be at least one metre between students as they sit at their desks in classrooms.
- Entry and exits to schools will be managed to avoid congestion.
- Lunch and recess breaks will be staggered.
- Protocols will be in place to safely move students through schools to reduce congestion in hallways and common areas. Where possible, teachers will move across classrooms instead of students.
- Students and staff are required to self-screen and stay home when they are exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19.
- Grades K- 12 can anticipate a staggered re-entry into the schools beginning the week of September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2020. This will best prepare for the changes implemented. Schools to communicate the week of August 31, 2020.
- Parents and caregivers will be expected to screen their children before boarding the bus or entering a school.
- There will also be self-screening protocols for all people entering a school and limitations regarding visitors.
- Students will be reminded of the importance of physical distancing and hand washing.
- **\*\*Revised\*\*** There will be enhanced cleaning protocols in schools and on school division operated school buses.
- **\*\*Revised\*\*** All school division operated school bus passengers in Grade 5 and older, and the driver, are required to wear a non-medical mask. These should be put on before loading and taken off after offloading if removal is appropriate for the setting. Students under Grade 5 can also use non-medical masks.
- Regional public health officials will monitor the situation closely and will provide direction and information to school communities. Public health will be responsible for responding to cases of COVID-19 and overseeing outbreak management protocols.

### *Attendance and Participation in Learning*

All students are expected to participate fully, even when remote learning is required. Students will be assessed on their work, reflective of their performance and learning. School divisions and schools will ensure that all students who are participating in remote learning have access to technology.

Schools are critical to the mental health and well-being of children. Planning will focus on returning as many students to in-class learning as possible while following public health measures. School division plans will need to incorporate special considerations for students with special needs and students at risk.

Division-level remote learning will be in place for students who are medically advised not to return to in-class learning due to COVID-19 related risk factors.

Because students and staff must stay home when sick, schools and school divisions must plan for absenteeism. Classroom teachers will support the development and provision of at-home learning

packages for students who are isolating or quarantined. Strategies for the recruitment and retention of substitute teachers and other staff members will also be required.

### ***Public Health Measures***

School divisions and schools are required to follow up-to-date public health measures and guidance. Early detection and proactive measures to minimize the risk of transmission will assist with limiting the impact of a case within the school and help prevent disruption of in-class learning and restricted access to the school by students and staff. These are set out below.

### ***Symptom Screening-See Appendix A***

Symptom screening must occur at the start of each day. **Parents and caregivers are responsible for ensuring their children are not displaying symptoms before sending them to school.** Staff are responsible for self-screening. **Staff and students must be in good health to enter the school.**

Screening protocols must be in place for all people entering schools. Screening information will be posted at all entrances and provided to families. Schools and school divisions will strengthen communication strategies, including information about when to stay home. Up to date information will be available on school websites.

### ***Hand Hygiene-See Appendix B***

- Encourage, and where possible supervise, hand hygiene and make alcohol-based hand sanitizer available at all building access points and throughout the school and in classrooms.
- Supervise young children when using alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Staff, volunteers, and participants will wash their hands frequently with soap and water for at least 20 seconds at the following times:
  - at the start of the day and before going home;
  - after going to the washroom;
  - before preparing food;
  - before and after eating;
  - after getting hands dirty;
  - after wiping noses or handling dirty tissues;
  - after coughing, sneezing, or blowing nose; and
  - after cleaning tasks (staff).

### ***Physical Distancing-See Appendix C***

- Two metres of physical distancing is required, to the greatest extent possible. When this is not possible, students must remain within cohorts to reduce exposure to others. Cohorts (designated groups of students) will distance themselves from other groups to limit exposure. In these instances, there must be at least one metre between students as they sit at their desks.

- Where possible, arrange spaces and schedules to encourage the recommended separation.
- Signage will be in place to promote recommended physical distancing and provide visual prompts for students and staff.
- Physical barriers, where appropriate, are also an option when physical distancing is not possible.
- Additional cleaning and disinfecting of any barriers or dividers will be required.
- Be outdoors as much as possible. Promote individual activity to minimize contact.
- Contact sports and games, or the use of shared equipment is strongly discouraged. Guidelines and a risk assessment for sports and recreational activities are available at <https://manitoba.ca/covid19/restoring/sports-guidelines.html>.

### *Cohorts*

Cohorts involve keeping groups of students (e.g. classes) together and avoiding interactions with other groups. Physical distancing within the cohort is required to the greatest extent possible, including separation between desks. However, it is recognized that strict physical distancing at all times, particularly with young children, is not practical in the school setting. The purpose of cohorts is to limit the mixing of students and staff so that if a child or employee develops an infection, there are fewer possible exposures and contact tracing can be more easily done. Students may be in more than 1 cohort depending on circumstances.

### *Individuals with Symptoms*

- If symptoms develop while at the school, the person will be isolated in a predetermined isolation space. Where a separate room is not available, they must be kept at least two metres away from others.
- A medical mask will be provided to and worn by the sick student, unless there are safety issues that prevent the student from wearing a mask.
- **Parents or caregivers will be notified to come and pick up their child immediately.** They can contact Health Links – Info Santé at (204-788-8200 or 1-888-315-9257) or the child’s health care provider for direction, if required.
- If the student is young and requires close contact and care while isolated, staff can continue to care for the child until the parent is able to pick up the child. Caregivers are to be mindful of hand hygiene and avoid contact with the respiratory secretions of the student. A medical mask is to be worn by the staff person caring for the child.
- If a staff member or volunteer in a school becomes symptomatic, they will immediately isolate themselves from other staff and students, notify their administrator, and go home to monitor symptoms.

### ***Contact Tracing and Outbreak Management***

In the event of confirmation of a case of COVID-19 connected with a school, public health will lead the response and provide guidance, including ensuring appropriate supports are in place to coordinate the response. Contact tracing involves identifying the contacts of a positive case and contacting those individuals who may have been exposed.

### ***Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)***

- Masks offer an added layer of protection. Students in Grade 5 and above, as well as teachers and staff, are strongly recommended to wear a non-medical mask in common areas throughout schools and when physical distancing of two metres is not possible. Younger students can wear masks too.
- Extra masks will be made available at all schools throughout the school year for those who do not have their own.
- All school bus passengers in Grade 5 and older, and the driver, are required to wear a non-medical mask. These should be put on before loading and taken off after offloading if removal is appropriate for the setting. Students under Grade 5 can also use non-medical masks.

### ***Recess/Breaks***

- Public health advises that playgrounds and play structures are low risk for transmission. There are no recommended specific requirements for cleaning play structures.
- Maintain separate containers of equipment for each class or cohort and clean between recess periods.
- Ensure handwashing or hand hygiene is performed before and after recess.
- Reinforce among children that sharing food or water bottles is not allowed.

### ***Visitors and Volunteers***

Schools will minimize visitors and volunteers at school facilities. When their presence is necessary, visitors and volunteers must first self-screen and adhere to physical distancing and hygiene practices in place for students and staff. Community use of schools will be suspended, with the exception of childcare centres operating in schools.

## **Appendix A**



# COVID-19 NOVEL CORONAVIRUS



**Do not enter if you should be self-isolating as a result of possible exposure to COVID-19 within the last 14 days due to:**

- Contact with someone that is suspected or confirmed to have COVID-19
- Return from international travel, or from Ontario (east of Terrace Bay), Quebec or the Atlantic provinces (travel restrictions are subject to change; up-to-date information is available at: <https://www.gov.mb.ca/covid19/soe.html>)



**Do not enter if you have a new onset of any of the following symptoms:**

- Fever/chills
- Cough
- Loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat/hoarse voice
- Shortness of breath
- Vomiting or diarrhea for more than 24 hours
- Poor feeding if an infant



**Do not enter if you have a new onset of two or more of the following symptoms:**

- Runny nose
- Muscle aches
- Fatigue
- Conjunctivitis
- Headache
- Nausea or loss of appetite
- Skin rash of unknown origin



**If any of the above apply, please:**

- limit your contact with others
- immediately self-isolate at home
- call Health Links-Info Santé for information about testing and self-isolation – **204-788-8200** or toll-free **1-888-315-9257**.

[manitoba.ca/covid19](https://manitoba.ca/covid19)



JUNE 2020





# REDUCE THE SPREAD OF COVID-19. WASH YOUR HANDS.



1

Wet hands with warm water



2

Apply soap



3

For at least 20 seconds, make sure to wash:



4

Rinse well



5

Dry hands well with paper towel



6

Turn off tap using paper towel



palm and back of each hand



between fingers



under nails



thumbs

📞 1-833-784-4397

@ canada.ca/coronavirus



Public Health  
Agency of Canada

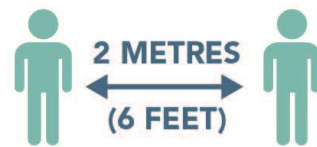
Agence de la santé  
publique du Canada

Canada

# COVID-19 NOVEL CORONAVIRUS

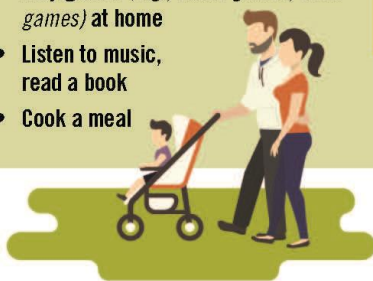


## What does social (physical) distancing look like?



### Safe to do

- Spending time with household members *(so long as they are not sick or have not returned to Manitoba in the past 14 days when they should be self-isolating)*
- Outdoor physical activity *(e.g. walking, running, biking, hiking)* on your own or with your household members
- Gardening, yard work and general household maintenance
- Play in your yard
- Get groceries and other goods delivered
- Use technology to chat with family and friends
- Play games *(e.g., board games, video games)* at home
- Listen to music, read a book
- Cook a meal



### Use Caution and Consider the Situation

- Visiting grocery stores *(Where possible, shop for groceries once a week and have one household member do the shopping)*
- Picking up medication
- Getting take-out



### Avoid

- Play dates
- Sleepovers
- Group gatherings, outings or events *(e.g., birthday and dinner parties, celebrations, weddings, funerals, religious services, team sports)*
- Visiting crowded stores or outdoor spaces
- Having visitors in your home
- Having non-essential workers in your home
- Driving with friends in a car
- Peak transit times





**School District of Mystery Lake**  
2020/2021 School Calendar

Regular Board Meetings	Student Led Conferences
District Wide PD/Inservice	Leadership Team Meetings
Holidays – School Closed	Education Week

September 2020							October 2020						
Sun	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat	Sun	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat
		1	2 Admin Day	3 PD	4 PD	5					Day 6 1	Day 1 2	3
6	7 Labour Day	Day 1 8 First Day	Day 2 9	Day 3 10	Day 4 11	12	4	Day 2 5	Day 3 6	Day 4 7	Day 5 8	Day 6 9	10
13	Day 5 14	Day 6 15	Day 1 16	Day 2 17	Day 3 18	19	11	12 Thanksgiving	Day 1 13	Day 2 14	Day 3 15	Day 4 16	17
20	Day 4 21	Day 5 22	Day 6 23	Day 1 24	Day 2 25	26	18	Day 5 19	Day 6 20	Day 1 21	Day 2 22	23 MTS PD	24
27	Day 3 28	Day 4 29	Day 5 30				25	Day 3 26	Day 4 27	Day 5 28	Day 6 29	Day 1 30	31
November 2020							December 2020						
Sun	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat	Sun	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat
1	Day 2 2	3 SLC	Day 3 4 <small>Go 9 Bring your child to work day</small>	Day 4 5	Day 5 6	7			Day 3 1	Day 4 2	Day 5 3	Day 6 4	5
8	Day 6 9	Day 1 10	11 Remembrance Day	Day 2 12	Day 3 13	14	6	Day 1 7	Day 2 8	Day 3 9	Day 4 10	Day 5 11	12
15	Day 4 16	Day 5 17	Day 6 18	Day 1 19	Day 2 20	21	13	Day 6 14	Day 1 15	Day 2 16	Day 3 17	Day 4 18 Early Dismissal	19
22	Day 3 23	Day 4 24	Day 5 25	Day 6 26	Day 1 27	28	20	21 Winter Break	22 Winter Break	23 Winter Break	24 Winter Break	25 Winter Break	26
29	Day 2 30						27	28 Winter Break	29 Winter Break	30 Winter Break	Day 3 31 Winter Break		
January 2021							February 2021						
Sun	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat	Sun	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat
					1 Winter Break	2		Day 1 1	Day 2 2	Day 3 3	Day 4 4	5 TTA PD	6
3	Day 5 4	Day 6 5	Day 1 6	Day 2 7	Day 3 8	9	7	Day 5 8	Day 6 9	Day 1 10	Day 2 11	Day 3 12	13
10	Day 4 11	Day 5 12	Day 6 13	Day 1 14	Day 2 15	16	14	15 Louis Riel Day	Day 4 16	Day 5 17	Day 6 18	Day 1 19	20
17	Day 3 18	Day 4 19	Day 5 20	Day 6 21	Day 1 22	23	21	Day 2 22	Day 3 23	Day 4 24	Day 5 25	Day 6 26	27
24	Day 2 25	Day 3 26	Day 4 27	Day 5 28	Day 6 29	30	28						
31													
March 2021							April 2021						
Sun	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat	Sun	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat
	Day 1 1	Day 2 2	Day 3 3	Day 4 4	Day 5 5	6					1 Spring Break	2 Spring Break/Good Friday	3
7	Day 6 8	Day 1 9	Day 2 10	Day 3 11	Day 4 12	13	4	Day 3 5	Day 4 6	Day 5 7	Day 6 8	Day 1 9	10
14	Day 5 15	Day 6 16	Day 1 17	Day 2 18	Day 3 19	20	11	Day 2 12	Day 3 13	14 SLC	Day 4 15	Day 5 16	17
21	Day 4 22	Day 5 23	Day 6 24	Day 1 25	Day 2 26	27	18	Day 6 19 Education Week	Day 1 20 Education Week	Day 2 21 Education Week	Day 3 22 Education Week	Day 4 23 Education Week	24
28	29 Spring Break	30 Spring Break	31 Spring Break				25	Day 5 26	Day 6 27	Day 1 28	Day 2 29	Day 3 30	
May 2021							June 2021						
Sun	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat	Sun	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat
						1			Day 5 1	Day 6 2	Day 1 3	Day 2 4	5
2	Day 4 3	Day 5 4	Day 6 5	Day 1 6	7 PD	8	6	Day 3 7	Day 4 8	Day 5 9	Day 6 10	Day 1 11	12
9	Day 2 10	Day 3 11	Day 4 12	Day 5 13	Day 6 14	15	13	Day 2 14	Day 3 15	Day 4 16	Day 5 17	Day 6 18	19
16	Day 1 17	Day 2 18	Day 3 19	Day 4 20	Day 5 21	22	20	Day 1 21	Day 2 22	Day 3 23	Day 4 24	Day 5 25	26
23	24 Victoria Day	Day 6 25	Day 1 26	Day 2 27	Day 3 28	29	27	Day 6 28	Day 1 29	Day 2 30			
30	Day 4 31												

Approved by Board June 30, 2020

**References:**

Manitoba Education- *WELCOMING OUR STUDENTS BACK: RESTORING SAFE SCHOOLS K-12 Guidelines for September 2020* (July 30, 2020), Winnipeg, MB.

Manitoba Education- *WELCOMING OUR STUDENTS BACK: RESTORING SAFE SCHOOLS COVID-19 K-12 School Settings Practice Guidance and Protocols* (August 13, 2020), Winnipeg, MB.