

Welcome back!

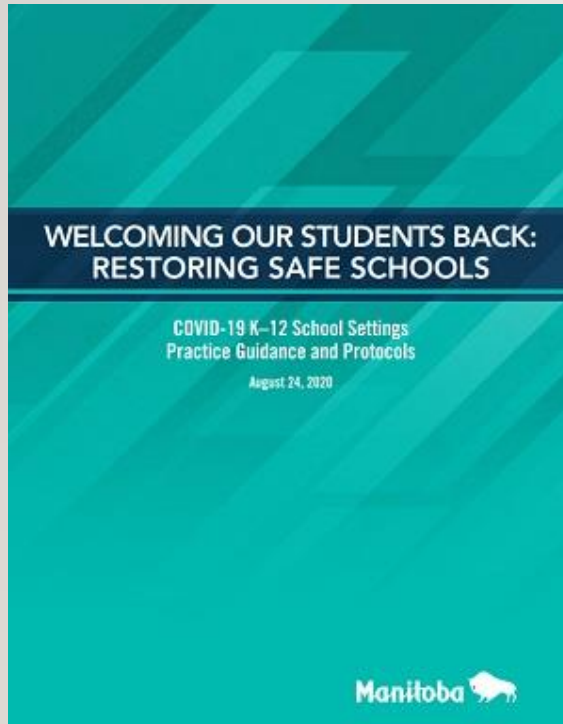
We are very pleased to have staff and students return!
Schools will look different this year for all of us. Patience and kindness will be required.

Remember everyone must self-screen before coming to school.

Let's have a safe and productive school year.



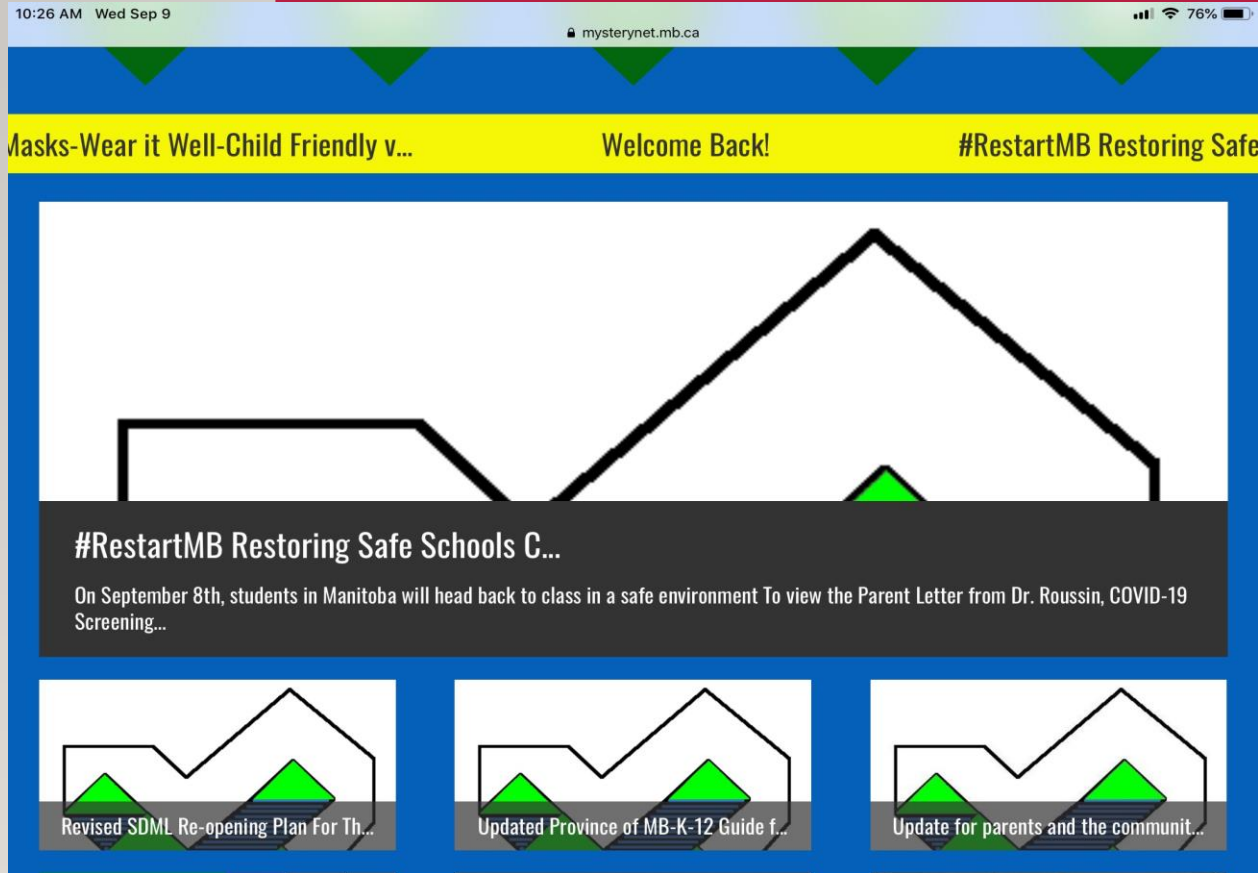
THE DIRECTION PROVIDED BY MANITOBA EDUCATION



- In class learning resumes on Sept. 8th:
- K-8 students will return for five days of in-class instruction (full instructional day) per week.
- Students Grades 9-12 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.
- Students with special needs in all grades will return for five days of in-class instruction.
- Teachers and staff return to schools on Sept. 2 for orientation to public health requirements and the educational priorities to support students.
- Schools need to be prepared for changing public health conditions and the different response levels.

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

DISTRICT & PROVINCIAL INFORMATION CAN BE FOUND ON OUR WEBSITE – MYSTERYNET.MB.CA OR FACEBOOK – SCHOOL DISTRICT OF MYSTERY LAKE



- Re-opening plans for school divisions are posted online and focus on:
 - Provincial public health measures
 - School day structure and learning plans (including remote learning & technology needs)
 - Mental health and well-being
- Robust preparedness plans are being created to quickly move to different response levels – (level orange and red). Changes can occur with 24 – 48 hour notice.
- Schools are communicating their plans directly to staff, students and families before school starts.
- Plan may look different for each school due to student population, space and demographics.


WHEN RETURNING TO SCHOOL IN SEPTEMBER

- Elementary schools will begin with a staggered start to ensure teaching of new protocols and practices. RDPC will be split into 2 cohorts and will follow the schedule as posted.
- 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.
- 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.
- Students will be reminded of the importance of physical distancing and hand washing.
- There will be enhanced cleaning protocols in schools and on buses.
- Students are not to share supplies, masks or food / drink.
- Protocols will be in place to safely move students through schools to reduce congestion in hallways and common areas. Teachers will move across classrooms instead of students.
- 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.




*****SELF-SCREENING
TOOL TO BE DONE
DAILY!*****
**CHANGES TO
SCREENING CRITERIA
WILL BE POSTED.**

-
- Students and staff are required to self-screen and stay home when they are exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19.
 - Parents and caregivers will be expected to screen their children before boarding the bus or entering a school.
 - There will also be screening protocols for all people entering a school and limitations regarding visitors.
 - We are working on the premise that people are coming to schools healthy.




STOP COVID-19
NOVEL CORONAVIRUS




Do not enter if you have:

- been in contact with someone that is confirmed to have COVID-19
- been notified that you were in a high risk setting for COVID-19 in the past 14 days (e.g., on a plane or at an event)
- travelled outside Manitoba in the last 14 days




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

- Fever
- Sore throat
- Cough
- Shortness of breath




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

- Runny nose
- Headache
- Muscle aches
- Hoarse voice
- Fatigue
- Nausea, vomiting or diarrhea
- Loss of taste or smell



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 **Manitoba** 

HAND HYGIENE

WASH YOUR HANDS, WASH YOUR HANDS, WASH YOUR HANDS



- Handwashing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds is the recommended hand hygiene practice. Hand sanitizer will be at all entrances and throughout school.
 - Students, staff and visitors must engage in frequent hand hygiene often:
 - at the start of the day and before going home, before and after recess or being on a bus,
 - after going to the washroom/diaper change and helping children with washroom routines,
 - before and after preparing food/eating/drinking,
 - after getting hands dirty or if they have become contaminated,
 - after coughing, sneezing, blowing nose, or handling tissues,
 - after soothing a crying child,
 - after putting on and taking off a mask, and
 - after cleaning tasks.
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- Students, especially young children, will need help and reminders. Posters and factsheets are available online at:
<https://www.gov.mb.ca/covid19/resources/index.html>

PHYSICAL DISTANCING



- Ensuring 2 metres (6 feet) of physical distancing as much as possible.
- Re-arrange spaces to avoid close contact and assigning a designated desk/table for each child.
- Manage flow of people in common areas, including hallways.
- Use visual prompts like tape on the floor, hoops, mats or other items that can mark off personal space.
- Implement a practice of staggered entrance and exit times, or use separate entrances.
- Avoid close greetings (e.g., hugs, handshakes).
- Stagger recess and staff breaks and do not schedule large in-person meetings.
- Assemblies and gatherings that exceed public health advice may not be scheduled.
- Physical barriers may be installed for high traffic areas and where feasible to maintain infection prevention and control.

PHYSICAL DISTANCING CONTINUED



- Strict physical distancing at all times, particularly with young children, is not always practical.
- Cohorts (groups of students) can be used to limit exposure. A minimum of 1 meter separation when seated at desks or tables is required.
- Keep groups of students (e.g. classes) together and avoid interactions with other groups, including lunch breaks and recess.
- Avoid the movement of classes of students where possible. It is preferable that teachers move between classrooms instead of students. Teachers need to maintain 2 meters of physical distancing, other than brief close encounters.
- Daily records that include the names of students, staff, and volunteers of cohorts will be needed.

MASK REQUIREMENTS

- Students in Grades 4 and up, teachers, staff, and visitors are required to wear masks when physical distancing of 2 meters is not possible. Younger students can also use non-medical masks.
- Masks are required for bus drivers, students and any other passenger on the bus. Masks should be put on before getting on the bus and taken off after offloading.
- Medical masks should be used for symptomatic individuals (or while caring for people who are symptomatic), and when providing continuous care or intervention where distancing is not possible (e.g., students with special needs).
- Masks to be provided to students and staff if they do not have their own. Should be part of the back to school supply list.
- See detailed Guidance for Mask Use in Schools.



EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES WHICH DO WARRANT CONSIDERATION OF A MASK EXEMPTION INCLUDE

- children under the age of two years
- children under the age of 5 years either chronologically or developmentally who refuse to wear a face covering and cannot be persuaded to do so by their caregiver
- people, especially children, with severe sensory processing disorders
- patients with facial deformities that are incompatible with masking
- patients with PTSD who are triggered by a face covering
- extreme agoraphobia/asphyxia phobia (which is longstanding and pre-dating COVID-19)
- people with a cognitive impairment, intellectual deficiency or autism spectrum disorder for who wearing a face covering will cause severe distress or disorganization
- people who are unable to apply or remove a covering without help
- people who are experiencing active breathing difficulties

REMOTE LEARNING WILL ALSO PLAY A ROLE IF:

- Periods of time when students are home (isolation) (K-12) or when physical distancing cannot be achieved and cohorts are not possible (high school) – Classroom teacher.
- Changes to the response level, as part of the Pandemic Response System.
- Medical accommodations (Division led; Virtual teacher) Parents and caregivers must consult with health care providers on the need for an accommodation unless previously identified. A medical note/short form may be required by the school division
- The district will be utilizing either Seesaw or Google Classroom for the learning platform.
- There will be alternative methods of course delivery for those who require it.
- Parent tutorials are being linked to school websites.

ENHANCED CLEANING:



- Disinfect commonly touched surfaces frequently, at least twice daily or more often as needed (e.g., doorknobs, light switches, electronic devices, chairs, desks, art supplies, toys, tools and equipment).
- Hand sanitizer at all entrances and in classrooms.
- Increase monitoring of hand cleaning supplies to ensure an ample supply at all sinks in washroom and kitchen areas.
- Ensure washrooms and lunchrooms are cleaned/disinfected frequently (at least twice daily and more often as needed) and stagger use.
- Turn off water fountains that are not touchless or cannot be cleaned between users.
- Hired day time staff to ensure that enhanced cleaning protocols.

IF A STUDENT GETS SICK AT SCHOOL:

- Isolate in a separate room. If not immediately available, keep student at least 2 meters away from others.
- A medical mask must be worn by the sick student and staff member/caregiver. Extra vigilant hand hygiene is required.
- Notify caregiver to pick up the student immediately. It is really important that caregivers provide up to date phone numbers and emergency contacts.
- Ask the parent or guardian to contact Health Links – Info Santé (204-788-8200 or 1-888-315-9257) or the child’s health care provider for direction, if required.
- A sick child can return to the school once it has been determined that it is safe to do so by their health care provider or public health.
- Additional environmental cleaning will be required on high-touch areas. All items (e.g., bedding and toys) used by the child while isolated should be cleaned and disinfected.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

WILL THERE BE GYM, MUSIC, ELECTIVES, JUNIOR HIGH CLASSES AT PARKER?

- Yes, both are vital for students' mental health and well-being.
- Physical distancing and modifications to regular programming will happen. Changes to delivery and regular equipment disinfecting.
- Choir classes will continue – 2.4 metres between singers, masks to be worn, HEPA filtration system in Letkemann Theatre.
- Band will continue with modifications – physical distancing and practice rotation.
- Students will not be changing for PE classes.
- Outdoor gym classes (classes in general) are being encouraged.
- Lockers will not be used unless in a classrooms.
- We will be offering all of our elective classes including junior high classes at RDPC. All of the course are significant for student learning.
- Mental Health and Well-being Supports – school counsellors are only a phone call or email away. Also, there links available on our websites. Please do not hesitate to reach out. There are resources for students, caregivers, and help line information.
- Kids Help Line – 1-800-668-6868 (24/7) or text CONNECT to 686868
- Mobile Crisis Service for youth in Thompson – 204-778-1472
- Mental health and well-being will be a focus in all our schools. Some of the programs are Virtues, Reaching Out, Speak Up, Healthy Youth Relationships, 7 Healthy Habits of Kids, Be Safe, Thrival Kits, Internet Safety and a few other programs.



#RESTART^{MB} Pandemic Response System

[Learn More](#)

PROGRESSION OF MEASURES FOR KEY SECTORS BASED ON EXTENT OF PANDEMIC RISK

ITEM	LEVEL GREEN COVID-19 SAFE	LEVEL YELLOW CAUTION	LEVEL ORANGE RESTRICTED	LEVEL RED CRITICAL
Gatherings	Open	Larger groups that still allow rapid contact tracing	Restricted group sizes that still allow rapid contact tracing	Only small essential groups
Personal and Long-term Care Facilities	Higher number of visitors with tracing	More than one visitor	One visitor with few exceptions	No visitors except absolutely essential
Schools	Open	Open with occupancy/cohorts required for distancing (some remote learning)	In-class – grades K to 8 Remote -- grades 9 to 12	Closed with remote learning, except for K-6 for critical workers.
Child Care Facilities	Open	Open with some occupancy controls	Open with occupancy limits	Open with restricted occupancy for essential workers only
Retail and Personal Service	Open	Greater limits on close contact services	Capacity limits	Only E-service, Pick-up or Delivery
Restaurants	Open	Limits on buffet service	Capacity limits	Only Pick-up or Delivery
Beverage Rooms	Open	Limits in counter service	Capacity limits	Only Pick-up or Delivery
Recreation Facilities	Open	Occupancy Controls for High-Touch Equipment	Capacity limits	Closed
Casino Facilities	Open	Capacity limits	Closed	Closed
Theatres	Open	Capacity limits	Closed	Closed
Travel	No federal restrictions	Some travel restrictions in place depending on rate of virus transmission elsewhere.		

Health and Safety Resources

- [Video on how to effectively take on and off a mask – For students \(middle/senior\) and staff](#)
- [Video on why masks are important – For students \(early/elementary\)](#)
- [Videos on how to effectively wash your hands – For students \(early/elementary\)](#)
- [Videos on how to effectively wash your hands – For students \(middle/senior\) and staff](#)
- [Video on reducing the spread of COVID-19: Hygiene – For students \(early/elementary\)](#)
- [Signage regarding proper hand hygiene and cough/sneeze etiquette – For kids](#)
- [Signage regarding proper hand hygiene and cough/sneeze etiquette – Others](#)
- [Signage regarding maintaining at least 2 metres distance](#)

STAFF INFORMATION FOR RE-OPENING OF SCHOOLS



SUB TEACHERS

- To limit the movement of approx. 60 to 70 sub teachers throughout all schools in the District, fulltime sub teachers were hired.
- Information from CIMS regarding the average amount of same day sick absences from each school was used. Based in this information 16 fulltime sub teachers were hired (an average of 2 per school) with the exception of 3 going to both Wapanohk and RD Parker.
- Schools have been “twinned” to cover off if required. For example-RD Parker and Riverside are twin schools therefore fulltime subs can move between these two schools.

DISTRICT DIRECTIVES

- Some staff (both teaching and non-teaching) assignments will need to change temporarily to accommodate smaller groupings for supervision and support.
- The distinctions between roles and responsibilities of support staff and professional staff have not changed.
- The following applies to engaging support staff in working with students;
 - Support staff may have increased responsibility for supervision
 - Support staff will be available to support as needed
 - Support staff will communicate student progress to the assigned teacher and are not responsible for communicating student progress to parents .

CONTACT TRACING FOR STAFF/STUDENTS THAT REPORT A POSITIVE TEST FOR COVID

- Public Health will notify the school principal and provide direction.
- The Principal will immediately advise the Superintendent(s).
- The Superintendent(s) and school administration will work with public health for direction.
- Any information about positive cases will be communicated through Public Health not the SDML.
- Health information is considered private therefore information regarding positive test cases will not be shared publicly.

FACILITATING CONTRACT TRACING, SCHOOLS MUST:

- Record student attendance accurately.
- Maintain a log of visitors including District staff.
- Keep groups of students together (cohorts) to the greatest degree possible.
- Upon request by public health officials schools will provide contact information of staff or students who have be considered to be “close contacts”.
- Public Health is responsible for communicating with “close contacts”.
- Schools **MUST** not communicate this information without specific direction from the Superintendent(s).

REVIEWING EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS FIRE DRILLS

In context of COVID-19, the requirement of 10 fire drills must continue, but school divisions can use alternate measures that encompass Public Health advice.

Such as:

- Fire drills for one class at a time, or on different days.
- If you don't do the evacuation drill due to Public Health, then you must provide verbal instructions to the students on what they would do.
- Schools can engage in staggered times for each cohort to perform the drills and to reduce congestion.
- Muster points could be spread out and staggered re-entering of the building as needed.

LOCKDOWNS

For lockdowns, during the COVID-19 pandemic, drills and preparedness need to continue following the guidelines of school district administrative procedures using modifications that encompass Public Health Advice.

- Set a training time (15 min).
- Use school specific floor plans.
- Display floor plans on Smart Board or overhead, indicate current location.
- Discussion should be grade/age appropriate.
- Review division lockdown polices and procedures. Educate students on visitor/access control.
- Scenario discussions: Discuss with view from current and different locations.
- Discuss differing types of incidents (ie. intruder in the school, outside the school).

STUDENT BECOMES SICK AT SCHOOL

- If a child develops symptoms while at school, the child will be isolated in a separate room.
- A medical grade mask will be provided for and worn by the sick child.
- The parent will be notified to come and pick up the child immediately.
- Parents or caregivers must pick up their child as soon as possible if they are notified their child is ill.
- The parent or guardian will be asked to contact Health Links – Info Santé (204-788-8200 or 1-888-315-9257) or the child's health care provider for direction, if required.
- If the child is young and requires close contact and care while isolated, caregivers will continue to care for the child until the parent is able to pick up the child.
- Caregivers should be mindful of hand hygiene and avoid contact with the respiratory secretions of the child. A medical mask should be worn by the staff person caring for the child.

STAFF MEMBER BECOMES SICK AT SCHOOL

- If a staff member or volunteer in a school becomes symptomatic, they should immediately isolate themselves from other staff and children, notify their supervisor, and go home to isolate.
- Contact Health Links – Info Santé (204-788-8200 or 1-888-315-9257) or their health care provider for direction.
- Additional environmental cleaning should occur. Focus should be on high-touch areas and areas where the staff/volunteer spent time.

REFERENCES:

- Manitoba Education- *WELCOMING OUR STUDENTS BACK: RESTORING SAFE SCHOOLS K-12 Guidelines for September 2020* (July 30, 2020), Winnipeg, MB.
- Manitoba Government. *Restart MB Pandemic Response System*. (August 19, 2020), Winnipeg, MB.
- SDML. *School District re-opening Plan for the 2020 / 2021 School Year* document. (September 1, 2020)Thompson, MB.