



## COMMUNICATION

### Issue: School-Based Assessments for Children Entering Kindergarten in September 2021

#### Background

In the spring, many schools and school divisions provide school-based assessments for children entering Kindergarten in September. School-based assessments may include hearing and vision screening, academic readiness, social-emotional readiness, speech-language pathology, and occupational and physical therapy needs.

#### Public Health Measures

As schools and school divisions plan for school-based assessments, please be reminded of the measures indicated in the public health guidelines for Kindergarten to Grade 12 school settings included in the links below.

*Welcoming Our Students Back: Restoring Safe Schools—COVID-19 K–12 School Settings Practice Guidance and Protocols (October 20, 2020)* includes the following public health guidance for K–12 school settings:

- visitor access, page 12
- physical distancing, pages 12 and 13
- hand washing, page 16
- mask wearing, page 17

[www.manitoba.ca/asset\\_library/en/covid/k12-guidelines-oct20.pdf](http://www.manitoba.ca/asset_library/en/covid/k12-guidelines-oct20.pdf)

*Guidance on Supporting Students Who Require Interventions or Supports that Must Be Delivered in Close Physical Proximity (December 2020)*

[edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/covid/docs/guidance\\_support\\_students.pdf](http://edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/covid/docs/guidance_support_students.pdf)

#### Other Considerations

- Schools should consider implementing an appointment-based approach for school-based assessment.
- Schools are encouraged to look at conducting assessments virtually for families that have that option available.
- When feasible, only one parent/caregiver should attend their child's appointment.
- Prior to arrival for the assessment, schools must clearly communicate to the parent/caregiver current school policies related to COVID-19.
- Schools must have appropriate signage, hand-sanitizer, etc., clearly visible upon arrival.
- Individuals conducting school-based assessments must have appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE), including a medical mask.
- Assessment stations must be cleaned and disinfected between each child's use.

## RELEVANT WEB LINKS

#### *Pandemic Response System Levels for K–12 Schools*

K–12 Schools across the Province—Restricted Level (Orange) Guidelines

[manitoba.ca/asset\\_library/en/covid/response-management-K-12-restricted.pdf](http://manitoba.ca/asset_library/en/covid/response-management-K-12-restricted.pdf)

*Welcoming Our Students Back: Restoring Safe Schools—COVID-19 K–12 School Settings Practice Guidance and Protocols (October 20, 2020)*

[manitoba.ca/asset\\_library/en/covid/k12-guidelines-oct20.pdf](http://manitoba.ca/asset_library/en/covid/k12-guidelines-oct20.pdf)

Please forward questions and inquiries to [educovid19@gov.mb.ca](mailto:educovid19@gov.mb.ca).

Additional information is available on the Manitoba Education COVID-19 website at [www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/covid/latest.html](http://www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/covid/latest.html).