

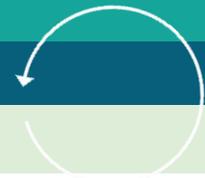


BACK to SCHOOL

August 23, 2022

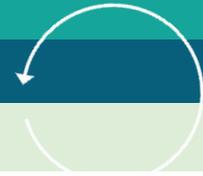
For education stakeholders





Agenda

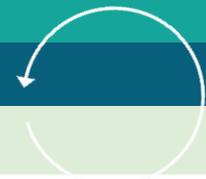
- Back to School
- Public Health Updates
 - Public Health Question and Answers
- Education Updates
 - Education Question and Answers
- Conclusion



Back to School

- We are excited to welcome students and school staff back to full-time in-person learning this fall!
- The focus this school year will be on re-establishing relationships and school routines where students are in school full-time experiencing the full range of what school has to offer.
- We are happy that students will have a school year with new and renewed friendships, sports, band/music, dramatic arts, field trips, and graduation celebrations.

There is so much to look forward to!

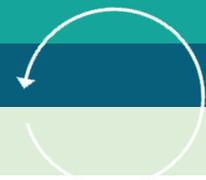


Return to In-Person Learning

- The well-being of students and staff remain a top priority, and all public health updates are regularly updated on the government website: <https://manitoba.ca/covid19/info-for-mbs.html>.
- Public health officials and Education and Early Childhood Learning continue to collaborate and partner to support school communities throughout Manitoba.
- Schools should continue to do response planning for any potential disruptions to schools to ensure the continuation of student learning.



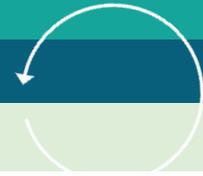
Public Health Update



Public Health Updates

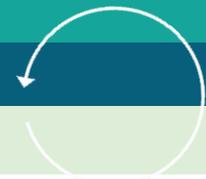
In-person, in class, every day fundamentals:

- ✓ **monitor daily** for signs and symptoms of COVID-19
- ✓ **stay home when sick**
- ✓ **frequent hand washing** with easy access to hand hygiene products
- ✓ **practice respiratory etiquette** (i.e., covering coughs and sneezes)
- ✓ **ventilation** improvements, **routine cleaning** and **disinfection** protocols with a focus on high-touch surfaces and common areas including washrooms
- ✓ **encourage vaccinations** (COVID-19 and routine immunizations)
- ✓ **respect individual choice regarding mask use**, and have masks and rapid antigen tests available for staff and students if needed
- ✓ **have plans in place** for when students become ill at school and if there are high cases of respiratory illness



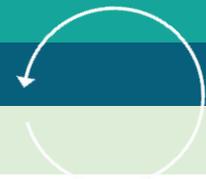
Masks

- **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.**
- While masks are no longer required to be worn in indoor public spaces in Manitoba, including schools, they are recommended in some situations, and individuals may choose to wear a mask based on their personal risk assessment or preference. Mask Recommendations:
www.gov.mb.ca/covid19/resources/masks.html
- 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. School divisions can order masks through the established ordering process. If you require information on the process, please email CS-ADM@gov.mb.ca.



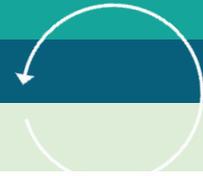
Rapid Antigen Tests

- Rapid antigen test kits are currently available free of charge for people at many locations across the province. Schools and school divisions 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. Tests are available through the established ordering process. If you need more information on the process, please email CS-ADM@gov.mb.ca.



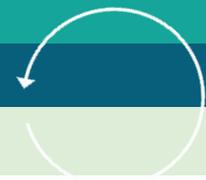
Contact Tracing and Notification

- Contact tracing is no longer routinely recommended by public health officials. Close contacts of COVID-19 cases are not required to self-isolate (quarantine) if they do not have symptoms.
- 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, child care, or work; and follow public health guidance for isolation at <https://manitoba.ca/covid19/info-for-mbs.html>.



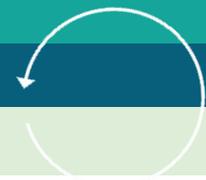
Contact Tracing and Notification (cont'd)

- Schools are no longer expected to issue community notification letters at this time. In the event that there is concern about an outbreak (COVID-19 or non-COVID-19), schools can contact local public health to obtain additional guidance. There may be exceptional circumstances where public health composes a letter and recommends distributing it to the school community.



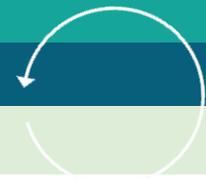
Remote Learning: Public Health Perspective

- Remote learning is a measure of last resort and is not anticipated to be recommended by public health for ongoing COVID-19 management, unless exceptional circumstances arise.
- However, during periods of increased respiratory disease activity, absenteeism may be high, including amongst staff, that may create operational challenges. Schools should have plans in place to address this scenario.



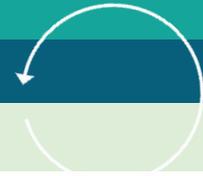
The 2022/2023 School Immunization Program

- Following consultation with regions, Manitoba Health is providing guidance to the regions for the School Immunization Program to be offered in the upcoming 2022/2023 academic year.
- This guidance was informed by a review of several factors, including:
 - The serious nature of invasive meningococcal disease and the benefits of giving HPV and Hepatitis B vaccines before sexual debut or onset of lifestyle risk factors.
 - Current vaccine coverage rates among children going into Grades 6 to 12.
 - Consultations and discussions with the regions.



School Immunization Program: Plans for the 2022/2023 Academic Year

- Routine program offered in all schools across MB:
 - Three vaccines protecting against HPV, Hepatitis B (Hep B), and Meningococcal disease will be offered in Grade 6.
 - Tdap vaccine booster offered in Grade 8 or 9 (the grade in which it is offered varies by region).
- Catch-up program:
 - Catch-up immunizations for HPV, Hep B, and Meningococcal disease will be offered in Grades 7 and 8 in all schools across Manitoba.
 - Catch-up immunizations for HPV, Hep B, and Meningococcal disease will be offered in Grade 9 in schools where local vaccine coverage is lower.



School Immunization Program: Plans for the 2022/2023 Academic Year (cont'd)

- Additional catch-up immunizations may be offered in some schools/regions based on an assessment of local vaccine coverage, operational considerations, and regional capacity.
- At this time, there are no plans to offer the COVID-19 vaccine in schools for the 2022/2023 school year. Access will continue to be available at sites that currently offer COVID-19 vaccines to children.
 - Based on current available clinical evidence coupled with current national recommendations, existing/anticipated demand can continue to be met through current/existing pathways (e.g., doctors' offices, regional offices/clinics, pharmacies for children aged 5 years and older, etc.).



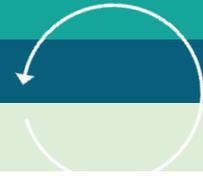
COVID-19 & Influenza Vaccine Finder

- Manitoba has an online COVID-19 & Influenza Vaccine Finder where the public can search for locations that offer the COVID-19 vaccine or influenza vaccine in their area.

www.gov.mb.ca/covid19/vaccine/finder.html

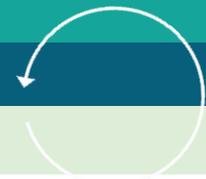


K to 12 Education Updates



Emergency Preparedness Planning Support

- Manitoba Education and Early Childhood Learning will continue to collaborate with school divisions, funded independent schools, educational partners, public health officials, and emergency planning agencies on long-term preparedness and response planning for any potential disruptions to schools to ensure the continuation of student learning.
- This work will be coordinated within the department's Corporate Services Division, in coordination with stakeholders.



Emergency Preparedness Planning

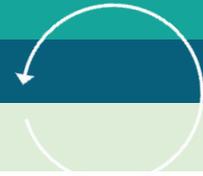
- While we don't anticipate reactivating COVID-19 response plans and public health orders that were in place earlier in the 2021/2022 school year, we should be preparing response plans based on lessons learned during the pandemic.
- School preparedness plans should anticipate different scenarios based on unexpected pandemic, societal, and environmental situations, and include any guidance and recommendations from public health officials.



Welcoming Students Back to the Classroom: 2022/2023 Priorities

- To support educators and students, we have worked with school leaders, administrators and partners to identify shared priorities for the upcoming school year, including:
 - focusing on re-engaging students
 - responding to literacy and numeracy needs
 - promoting mental health and well-being
 - advancing Indigenous education
 - supporting students with diverse learning needs.

More information in the [Manitoba K to 12 Action Plan!](#)



What's New for 2022/2023

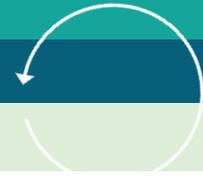
- New Framework for Learning
 - Focus on Global Competencies: critical thinking, communication, collaboration, connection to self, creativity and citizenship as the foundation to all curricula.
- Provincial Reading, Writing, Oral Language Progressions (English/French)
- Enhancement of the K to 12 English Language Arts Curriculum to include grade-level outcomes (English/French)
- Provincial licenses to free, on-line resources:
www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/docs/index.html
- Remote Learning Strategy and Manitoba Online High School
- Assessing and addressing learning impacts
- Provincial evaluations
 - To continue: Grade 3/4 and Grade 7/8 evaluations
 - To pilot: Grade 10 provincial evaluations



Promoting Mental Health and Well-Being

The department is focused on mental health strategies such as the framework and the **5Ts** for Mental Health Education in Schools:

- **TALKING** about mental health
 - Increase awareness
 - Sources of Strength (Grades 6 to 12)
 - Enhance school-based mental health Initiative
- Providing appropriate **TRAINING** for teachers
 - *ASIST/SafeTALK*
 - *Trauma-informed teaching*
 - *Sources of Strength*
- Incorporating mental health into **TEACHING**
 - *Project 11*
 - *Roots of Empathy/Seeds of Empathy*



Promoting Mental Health and Well-Being (cont'd)

5Ts continued:

- Providing helpful **TOOLS** for students and
 - *Thrival Kits*
 - *Kids Help Phone*
 - *Youth Hubs (Huddle Sites)*
 - *Pathway to Safer Sport program and toll-free Safe Sport Line*
- **TAKING CARE** of teachers
 - *Care for All in Education*
 - *Community Schools Program – Compassionate Schools Model*

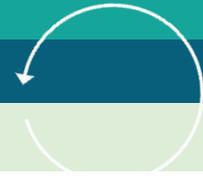
NEW School and Community Support Unit

- Attendance Policy/Strategy
- Student Presence Media Campaign



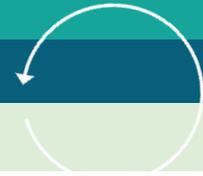
Advancing Indigenous Education

- On April 28, 2022, the Manitoba government launched [Mamàhtawisiwin: The Wonder We Are Born With – An Indigenous Education Policy Framework](#):
 - To bring Mamàhtawisiwin to life in Manitoba schools, a tool for self-reflection, planning, and reporting will be distributed and orientation sessions will be held with educational organizations and community partners.
- The Elders and Knowledge Keepers in Schools Initiative was launched to promote the inclusion of First Nations, Métis, and Inuit histories, culture, traditional values, contemporary lifestyles, and traditional knowledge in the provincial curricula.
 - Based on the success of the pilots, the program has been expanded so that all divisions can participate this year.



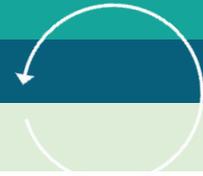
Advancing Indigenous Education (cont'd)

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Students Are at the Centre of What We All Do!

- Classroom learning that enables students to succeed academically, socially, and emotionally, no matter where they live, their background, or personal circumstances
- Exceptional teachers, school staff, and leaders
- Strong public education system with available resources, programming, and tools
- Healthy and strong communities
- Focus on early childhood learning, with new schools being built with child-care facilities incorporated into the design
- Continued communication and engagement with stakeholders, to focus on shared goals and responsibilities



Key Departmental Contacts

We look forward to working with you
in the 2022/2023 school year!

Our contact information can be found on the
[Education and Early Childhood Learning website.](#)

Corporate Services Division

CS-ADM@gov.mb.ca