

# Virtual Town Hall Event

September 3, 2020

# Virtual Town Hall Event

Thank you all for participating in this Town Hall. Our goal tonight is to present the highlights of our re-entry plan and to answer all questions sent to DSFM's email over the last week.

# Reopening Scenario

Manitoba Education has asked all school divisions to prepare a reopening plan based on two scenarios:

## Scenario 1

- In-class learning for students Kindergarten to Grade 8.
- In-classe learning or hybrid mode (minimum 2 days a week in-class learning for Grades 9 to 12).

# Reopening Scenario

Manitoba Education has asked all school divisions to prepare a reopening plan based on two scenarios:

## Scenario 2

- Distance education for students with compromised immune systems related to COVID-19. We're not talking about children with asthma, diabetes, etc.
- Distance education for children whose family member (living under the same roof) has compromised immune system.

# Plans of the DSFM

- The DSFM, following the recommendations of Public Health, presented a plan to return to school that meets the requirements of the Province.
- This plan is based primarily on the well-being of our students and staff, while taking into account the reality of a provincial school division with 10 schools with a capacity of more than 120%. In this regard, and in order to solve this problem, the DSFM has been requesting new schools from the Ministry of Education for 14 years.

- Offer a complete program to all our students.
- Provide school transportation to all eligible students.
- Ensure the physical and mental needs of all our students are met
- Ensure that each of our schools follows the hygiene protocol recommended by the head of Public Health regarding the cleanliness of the schools.
- Using cohorts to minimize the risk of common contacts.

- Minimize the risk of transmission as much as possible.
- Establish a daily routine of distancing and personal hygiene for each individual in the school.
- Students in Grades 4 to 12 will be required to wear the mask at school when two (2) meters of physical distancing cannot be maintained.
- All students must wear a mask in school buses.

# School Transportation

## School Transportation Guidelines (from Manitoba Education):

- Wherever possible, alternative transportation to school is encouraged. Parents/caregivers/ students may provide their own transportation, including carpooling, walking or cycling, to avoid possible virus exposure on the bus.
- Students with symptoms of COVID-19 should not attend school or be passengers on buses (see <https://sharedhealthmb.ca/covid19/screening-tool/>).
- Drivers with symptoms of COVID-19 should not drive the school bus (see <https://sharedhealthmb.ca/covid19/screening-tool/>).
- All school bus passengers, as well as the driver, are required to wear a non-medical mask. These should be put on before getting on the bus and taken off after exiting the bus, if removal is appropriate for the setting. Students in lower grades may also wear non-medical masks (Guidelines on how to wear a mask can be found at [www.gov.mb.ca/covid19/prepareandprevent/index.html](http://www.gov.mb.ca/covid19/prepareandprevent/index.html)).
- All passengers and drivers should perform hand hygiene before and after being on the bus.

# School Transportation

- Since more than 90% of DSFM students are entitled to school transportation, including high school students, some schools will have two waves in the morning, and two waves at the end of the day.
- School buses will be disinfected before the students board the bus and after exiting the bus, including cleaning between the two morning and afternoon waves.
- Some schools will remain on a single course in the morning and afternoon.

# Human Resources

- In order to ensure that each school had the necessary support to compensate for the possible absences of staff members, the DSEF worked this summer to put in place a support plan for the schools.
- It is important for us here to shed light on the shortage of personnel. The DSEF has been growing steadily since its opening in 1994. Every year we have to recruit new staff to fill the 24 schools across the province.

# Human Resources

- French-speaking teachers who are able to work (certification, language skills, etc.) are not numerous and therefore the pool is limited.
- This brings a second problem; we have few qualified substitute teachers to do the work; and we are unable to ask a qualified English-speaking substitute to fill in.

# Human Resources

- In order to address the current problem, the Human Resources team is in the process of hiring what we call itinerant teachers (at least one per school) who will be assigned to a single school in order to minimize travel and possible transmission.
- The Human Resources team is also ensuring that every teacher from Grades K-8 will have a full-time Educational Assistant in their classroom.

# Symptoms:

## Principles of the Chief of Public Health

- The following principles are key to returning to school as safely as possible:
  - Do not send sick children to school, even if they are only slightly ill or if you believe their illness is not related to COVID-19.
  - Children with symptoms of COVID-19 should stay home and self-isolate.
  - Call Health Links-Info Santé for tips on COVID-19 screening and when your child can stop isolating and return to school.
  - If screening is recommended, it is important to do so as soon as possible to limit the spread of COVID-19.

# #RESTARTMB RESTORING SAFE SCHOOLS



## COVID-19 Response Management in K–12 Schools and Early Learning Child Care Centres



**Do you have a new onset, or worsening, of any ONE of the following symptoms?**

	yes	no
fever > 38°C or think you have a fever or chills		
cough		
sore throat/ hoarse voice		
shortness of breath/ breathing difficulties		
vomiting or diarrhea for more than 24 hours		
Vomissement ou diarrhée pour plus de 24 heures		

**If you replied YES to one of these symptoms, DO NOT attend school.**

## Do you have a new onset, or worsening, of any TWO of the following symptoms?

	yes	no
Runny nose		
Muscle aches		
Fatigue		
Conjunctivitis		
Headache		
Skin rash of unknown cause		
Nausea or loss of appetite		
Poor feeding in an infant		

If you replied YES to at least two these symptoms, **DO NOT attend school.**

## Exposure History

		oui	non
1.	Have you been in close contact (within two meters/ six feet for more than 15 minutes) in the last 14 days with a confirmed COVID-19 case		
2.	Have you been exposed to COVID-19 in a work or public setting?		
3.	Have you travelled outside of Canada, or within Canada, east of Terrace Bay, Ontario in the past 14 days?		
4.	A. In the last 14 days has anyone living in your household travelled outside of Canada, or within Canada, east of Terrace Bay, Ontario? If yes, proceed to question 4B. If no, do not complete 4B or 4C.		
	B. IF YES to 4A, is your household traveller exempt from self-isolation (quarantine) requirements ( <a href="http://www.manitoba.ca/covid19/soe.html">www.manitoba.ca/covid19/soe.html</a> )? If no, proceed to question 4C. If yes, do not complete 4C.		
	C. If NO to 4B, have you been in close contact with the household traveller in the last 14 days since their return from travel?		

**If you replied YES to one of these symptoms, DO NOT attend school.**

# Symptoms?

- If a student suddenly shows symptoms while in school, they will be placed in isolation (two meters).
- Unless a child has a health problem associated with the use of a mask, the school will provide one.
- The school will immediately contact parents and caregivers to pick up their child and will also ask parents and caregivers to contact Health Links-Info Santé 204-788-8200 or 1-888-315-9257 or the family doctor.
- If a student requires the presence of an adult when in isolation, a staff member who will first wash their hands and wear a mask will remain close to the student.
- If the school is unable to reach the parents or caregivers of the child with symptoms of COVID-19, the child will remain in quarantine at the school.

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- If the school is unable to reach the parents or caregivers of the child with symptoms of COVID-19, the child will remain in quarantine at the school.
- Once the child leaves the isolation room, it will be disinfected.

# Health and Hygiene

- Students will be required to clean their hands with a sanitizing gel before entering the school bus, upon arrival and departure from school (with supervision).
- All individuals in the school will be required to clean their hands:
  - before and after using the restroom
  - before and after meals
  - after sneezing or blowing their nose
  - after wiping their nose
  - when hands are dirty
  - before preparing to eat
  - before and after breaks or recess
  - before entering a room, if the individual has moved within the school throughout the day
- after performing cleaning tasks

# Health and Hygiene

- To avoid handling objects and to prevent a possible contamination, each student from Kindergarten to Grade 8 will have a personalized bin which will contain learning material.
- School custodians will ensure that bathrooms are thoroughly cleaned (at least six times a day: before the start of the day, before recess, after recess, before lunch, after lunch and at the end of the day) and classrooms, including any flat surface and all taps. Also, stair ramps, door handles, water fountains will be sanitized frequently. Students will be asked to bring their water bottle.

# Public Health and Hygiene

- Students K-8 will enter in cohorts and will stand in line while maintaining one (1) meter of physical distancing.
- Some schools will have two waves of buses to allow for more space.
- When moving within the school, students will remain in a cohort and will be required to follow the one (1) meter of physical distancing.
- Students moving within the school outside their cohort will require two (2) meters of physical distancing.
- All visitors and volunteers must administer a self-assessment by using the Online Screening Tool prior to making an appointment. They must sanitize their hands and also wear a mask if meeting with a staff member.

# Learning

- We recognize that some students will arrive in September requiring additional linguistic support. With the help of Programming and Student Services, teachers will assess student needs in order to manage recovery and consolidated curricula. This will take place throughout the school year.
- School Student Services teams with the help of the Division specialists (Psychologist, Social Worker, Occupational Therapist, Speech Therapist, Resource Teacher) will provide appropriate support to students with special needs.
- For students unable to attend school due to health reasons, a teacher will be assigned to the student to ensure the curriculum continues by distance education.
- Depending on the health concern and the student's age, some will receive a laptop and others will receive printed material.
- Students are expected to fully participate in their education. Evaluation will be based on the work completed, whether by in-class instruction or by distance education.

# Physical distancing

- Public health has advised school divisions, where possible, to keep students two (2) meters apart. Public Health added that if we cannot offer a physical distance of two (2) meters, we must maximize the spaces in our schools, using the cohort system.
- Despite our desire to offer ratios allowing the a physical distance of two (2) meters, despite that we will use the majority of the specialists' classrooms including libraries, music rooms, workshops, etc., the DSFM cannot guarantee the two (2) meters in each of its schools.
- DSFM schools are overcrowded; 10 of its 24 schools are at maximum capacity (and +).
- In Winnipeg schools, 4 of the 5 Kindergarten to Grade 8 schools are at 120% capacity. The only school with additional space is École Roméo-Dallaire, located in St-James and is at 90% capacity.

Do you have other questions?  
Email us: [COVID19@dsfm.mb.ca](mailto:COVID19@dsfm.mb.ca)

Merci !