

September 25, 2020

Dear parents and legal guardians:

With today's public health announcement of tightening health measures in the Winnipeg region, the health and well-being of students and staff are paramount to the Division scolaire franco-manitobaine. In this time of crisis, the DSFM is all the more vigilant to ensure a safe environment in all its schools and divisional office.

The following is a reminder of the instructions developed in the [Back-to-School Guide for Parents and Caregivers](#) that will be followed in the event of a confirmation of a COVID-19 case, an outbreak or contact tracing in one of the schools.

- Manitoba Public Health will provide schools with affected students with a sample letter to share with parents, staff and students.
- All other communications to parents and legal guardians will be handled by Manitoba Public Health.
- Contact tracing of those who may have been in contact with the "confirmed case" will also be done by Public Health using pre-established cohorts.
- Public Health may:
 - Contact students, families or staff who may have been in close contact with a confirmed (or probable) case and inform them if they need to self-isolate and self-monitor. Also, Public Health could determine when it is safe to return to school.
 - Requisition documents, schedules, etc., identify cohorts, staff and visitors who may have been in contact with the confirmed case.
 - Offer to administer tests to confirmed case contacts.
 - Assess whether a partial or complete closure of the school is required.

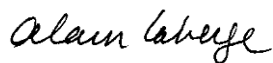
The DSFM ensures the following procedures:

- Close areas frequented by the infected person.
- Increase cleaning in targeted areas.
- Maintain a visitor log for at least 21 days to facilitate contact tracing.
- Ensure effective communication with parents and caregivers. Check out the latest updates on COVID-19 on the DSFM website: <https://bit.ly/DSFMcMAJ>.

While the DSFM is committed to promoting and following health and hygiene guidelines when students are in schools and buses, it is clear that students also have a life outside of school and in this regard, we rely on the vigilance and support of everyone to minimize the risks of external transmission. This can be done by doing seemingly innocuous things, such as wearing a mask, cleaning hands, social distancing and checking for symptoms on a daily basis, to reduce the risk of transmission.

We understand that with this pandemic, our daily lives are disrupted and in this regard, the DSFM thanks you for your cooperation.

Respectfully,



Alain Laberge
Superintendent

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