



BRANDON SCHOOL DIVISION

Restoring Safe Schools in a Hutterite Context Restricted Level (Orange)

Preamble

This plan, prepared in conjunction with various Manitoba school divisions, independent schools, the Manitoba Health Authority, Manitoba Education, Hutterite Educators of Manitoba, and the Hutterian Safety Council, addresses the unique concerns faced by Hutterian schools during the global COVID-19 pandemic. This plan is intended to be a practical approach to implementing the provincial “Restoring Safe Schools” plan within a Hutterite context. It is the hope of all partners that this plan will be implemented in all Hutterite schools in the province to keep all Manitobans as safe as possible.

Note: Manitoba school divisions have received permission from the author to use the original content with the understanding that it would be adapted.

The Hutterite Context

Hutterite Schools are different from non-communal based schools in several ways.

- They are typically single, double, in some cases more, classroom environments with a range of 15-30 students on the community premise.
- All students are within walking distance of the school building.
- They may have two or more non-Hutterite teachers and/or aides and a German/religious studies teacher from within the community.
- A number of Hutterite schools have Hutterite teachers from within the community teaching the provincial curriculum.
- In addition to the 9:00-3:30 school day, Hutterite children typically attend German and religious studies classes from 8:00-9:00pm and from 4:00-5:00pm, with some integrating these studies into the regular school day.
- Perhaps the most significant difference is that Hutterite students are more tightly socially interconnected with all other students outside the school setting.
- Also, Hutterite siblings, even those at different grade levels, will almost always be in the same classroom; said differently, Hutterite classrooms can be viewed as an extension of a large extended family household.

It is this outside-of-school interconnectedness inherent to close-knit communal cultural groups and interconnectedness inherent to the multi-grade instructional format which makes the Hutterite situation unique. In this context it is obvious that what happens in the community in

Accepting the Challenge

regards to virus transmission will have a direct and equivalent expression in the school setting. Therefore, transparency and a well-defined and nimble system of communication and responses are critical to the success of any mitigation strategies.

For this system to function, it is essential that all stakeholders participate fully in the implementation of the policies. The following practices and principles will be implemented to ensure safety and health of all students and staff in Hutterite schools.

Operating in a Restricted Level (Orange) within the #RestartMB Pandemic Response System

This is a scenario that we have planned for in advance, therefore, we are still able to accommodate all Spring Valley Colony School students for full-time, in-person learning.

The following are new and existing guidelines that students and staff will need to adhere to as all schools are required to follow up-to-date public health measures and guidance in the Restricted Level (Orange) plan.

- The school will continue to ensure two metres of physical distancing is maintained to the greatest extent possible.
- Teachers and staff who move across cohorts of students, including substitute teachers, are required to wear medical masks. Medical-grade disposable masks have been provided to the school. N95 masks are not required.
- Masks must be worn by students from grades 4-12, teachers, and visitors at all times when indoors. Reusable masks must be changed every day or as needed, particularly if moist or soiled.
- Younger children are encouraged to wear a mask but only if they are able to do so properly, otherwise there may be an increased risk of COVID-19 transmission.
- Frequent hand washing and following respiratory etiquette are expected.
- Daily sanitizing and deep cleaning when students are not present needs to be completed daily.
- Self-screening must be completed daily prior to students/staff coming to school by using the Manitoba Health COVID-19 Screening tool to assist in determining if they have a COVID-19 symptom or combination of symptoms (please see attached).
- **Please review the attached letter from Dr. Amy Frykoda, Chief Medical Officer of Health regarding the guidelines for returning to school following illness. Brandon School Division along with public health expect that any student or staff member that have any COVID-19 type symptom(s), even if mild, must follow the guidelines as outlines.**

Early detection and proactive measures to minimize the risk of transmission will assist with limiting the impact of a case within the school and help prevent disruption of in-class learning and restricted access to the school by students and staff.

Should the transmission of COVID-19 result in the need for the teachers to provide remote or distance learning to the students, plans that were discussed in September will be implemented whereby the students would be expected to attend classes from 9:00 to 11:00 A.M. daily but would be under the supervision of the German language teacher(s) and the class leads. The class lead are three graduate students who are trained to use the technology that would link the teacher to the classroom environment through a program called Microsoft TEAMS. This would allow the teacher and the students to see each other and to interact so that the teacher can

provide direct instruction. We appreciate the commitment that the community has made to ensuring that in-class learning will continue to be a priority if remote learning becomes a necessity by committing to having the three class leads available to support the students.

As Manitoba Education and Public Health officials continue to monitor the situation closely, they will continue to advise school divisions if additional measures are warranted.

Entrance and Exits

In order to respond to the physical distancing guidelines and to reduce congestion upon entry into the school, students will be called into the school class by class (Early Years, Middle Years, and Senior Years).

COVID-19 Awareness and Communication

To ensure that students and staff are fully aware and up-to-date on matters related to the COVID-19 pandemic, signage and posters must be posted at strategic points including entrances, hallways, classrooms, and washrooms. Signage with exclusion criteria, must be posted at all entrances to the school. Additionally, there could also be reminders to practice physical distancing and good hand hygiene and encouraging messages to promote good mental health.

Public Health Orders/ Workplace Health and Safety Guidelines

The safety and health of students and staff is our number one priority as we develop the plans for in-class learning in the schools. Manitoba Public Health advises the best defense against the spread of COVID-19 is:

- self screening;
- frequent handwashing;
- physical distancing;
- wearing a mask when physical distancing is not possible; and
- staying home when sick.

All schools are required to follow up-to-date public health measures and guidance. Early detection and proactive measures to minimize the risk of transmission will assist with limiting the impact of a case within the school and help prevent disruption of in-class learning and restricted access to the school by students and staff. These are set out below:

Good Hygiene Practices

Students and staff will be encouraged and reminded to follow all recommended hygiene practices including:

- hand hygiene;
- respiratory etiquette;
- personal items should not be shared; and
- avoid touching face: mouth, nose, eyes.

School staff will help students to ensure that hygiene practices are done correctly, through teaching, reinforcing, modeling and, when possible, supervising. Signage will be posted and highly visible in all washrooms and in each classroom to provide visual cues and reminders.

Hand Hygiene

Handwashing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds and single-use paper towel or continuous roll cloth dispenser is the recommended hand hygiene practice.

Alcohol-based hand sanitizer will also be available at entrances or classrooms where a sink is inaccessible and hands are not soiled. Only sanitization products approved by Health Canada may be used. Young children should not use alcohol-based hand sanitizer; washing with soap and water under supervision is preferred

Students and staff must engage in frequent hand hygiene, including but not limited to the following times:

- when entering and exiting the school or classrooms;
- at the start of the day and before going home;
- before and after recess;
- after going to the washroom and helping children with washroom routines;
- after a diaper change (both children and staff);
- before, during and after preparing food;
- before and after eating/drinking;
- after getting hands dirty or if they have become contaminated;
- after wiping nose or handling dirty tissues;
- after coughing, sneezing, or blowing nose;
- after soothing a crying child;
- after caring for a sick person;
- before and after putting on and taking off a mask;
- after cleaning tasks; and
- after sharing items such as balls, gym equipment, etc.

School staff will help students to ensure handwashing is done correctly by showing the videos below. Videos will be reviewed regularly by classroom teachers.

- <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/video/covid-19-hand-washing.html>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lisqnbMfKvI>
- <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/video/covid-19-hand-washing-heroes-dv.html>
- <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/video/covid-19-hand-washing.html>

Respiratory Etiquette

Respiratory etiquette includes the following:

- coughing and sneezing into a tissue or into the elbow, covering both the mouth and nose;
- properly and promptly disposing of used tissue;
- exercising proper hand hygiene immediately after coughing and sneezing; and
- avoid touching one's mouth, nose, or eyes.

Posters are available at <https://www.gov.mb.ca/covid19/updates/resources.html#posters>.

The successful implementation of COVID-19 safety measures is contingent on close cooperation and transparency between all stakeholders: school and divisional staff, students, parents, community leadership, and Public Health. All parties must make a concerted effort to cultivate this.

For successful communication between school and community, a liaison from the community, either the German teacher or a community elder, should be appointed. The responsibilities of the liaison would include the following:

- Monitor the health situation in the community, especially among the children population.
- Communicate any identified concerns to all stakeholders including parents and designated school staff.
- Determine and maintain an acceptable schedule for reporting and reviewing the situation with designated school staff. This may include regularly scheduled meetings, digital or otherwise, or daily check-ins via email or messaging apps.
- Determine a reliable means of disseminating information to students, staff, and families that minimizes rumor and gossip; transparency and honesty are essential in contending with COVID-19.

Physical Distancing

Physical distancing will be practiced to the fullest extent possible in all parts of the school throughout the school day. This will include:

- students physically distancing as they enter and exit the school at designated entrances;
- leaving sufficient space between desks and tables (two metres is required);
- mandating students in grades 4-12 to wear face masks if two metres cannot be maintained;
- allowing younger children to also wear masks;
- removing all unnecessary furniture to maximize available floor space;
- close greetings will be avoided (e.g., hugs, handshakes);
- assemblies and gatherings will not take place at this time;
- fire drills and lock-down requirements will be done at the classroom level only; and
- school activities will take place outdoors as much as possible.

Masks and other Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

Masks will be used by students from grades 4-12, teachers, support staff, and contract workers. Masks **must** be worn in common areas throughout the school and when physical distancing of two metres is not possible.

- Students should bring their own cloth masks.
- Reusable masks must be changed every day or as needed.
- Younger children should only wear masks if they are able to do so properly, otherwise there may be an increased risk of COVID-19 transmission.
- Each school must provide masks and other PPE to staff and students who do not have their own as needed.
- Medical masks will be used in situations where students and/or staff members exhibit COVID-19 symptoms while at school both by the person with symptoms and the caretakers. Gloves, gown, and eye protection (shield) are also recommended by Manitoba Health in certain high risk situations.

More information on masking can be found at <https://manitoba.ca/covid19/updates/prepareandprevent.html>.

Information on how to properly put on, take off, or change a mask can be found at <https://manitoba.ca/covid19/updates/prepareandprevent.html>.

Environmental Cleaning and Sanitizing

Daily sanitizing and regularly-scheduled deep cleaning when students are not present must be implemented. This includes:

- Washrooms and high-touch surfaces must be sanitized at least twice per day or more often as needed (e.g., doorknobs, light switches, electronic devices, chairs, desks, art supplies, toys, games, gym equipment, tools and equipment).
- Cleaning products recommended by Health Canada will be provided by each division and must be used according to manufacturer's directions.
- Increase monitoring of hand cleaning supplies to ensure an ample supply at all sinks in washroom and kitchen areas.

Staff and students will be required to disinfect:

- Electronic devices including photocopiers, printers, laptops, keyboards, mice, monitors and touch screens, chairs, desks, art supplies, toys, games, gym equipment, tools, and equipment in between uses.
- Each classroom will be provided with disinfecting spray as well as cloths.
- Deep cleaning using the spray pack will be completed every lunch hour.

Water fountains will be inaccessible - students are asked to bring a filled water bottle to school each day.

Student Screening and Self-Assessment

Students and staff can attend school if they are cleared by the Manitoba Health COVID-19 Screening tool, which will determine if they have any symptoms of COVID-19 and should therefore isolate at home. Staff and students living in the same household with a positive case under self-isolation must also self-isolate and not attend school until cleared by Manitoba Public Health.

Before leaving for school, parents/guardians are to use the Manitoba Health COVID-19 Screening Tool (**see below** or visit <https://sharedhealthmb.ca/covid19/screening-tool/>) to determine if it is safe for their child to attend. If a student shows any COVID-19 symptoms they should remain at home and a call to Health Links should be made. Get tested if advised to do so.

If a person in the household has been diagnosed with COVID-19, been in close contact with anyone diagnosed with COVID-19, or if anyone in the household has travelled outside Manitoba in the previous 14 days, (this does not include locations in Western Canada, the territories, and Ontario west of Terrace Bay), they are required to consult Health Links and may be required to self-isolate prior to attending school.

A positive COVID-19 test result for staff or students requires them to stay home. They will be cleared to return to school when no one in their household is COVID-19 positive or symptomatic and one of the following has occurred:

- they receive a negative COVID-19 test result and have been symptom-free for 24 hours;
- they receive clearance from their family physician; and
- they receive clearance from Manitoba Public Health or Health Links.

Screening Tool Questions

- Do you have any of the following symptoms?
 - Chest pain
 - Severe difficulty breathing
 - Confusion
 - Extreme drowsiness
 - Loss of Consciousness
- Do you have shortness of breath at rest or difficulty breathing when lying down?
- Do you have a new onset of any of the following symptoms?
 - Cough
 - Fever
 - Chills
 - Sore throat/Hoarse voice
 - Shortness of breath
 - Loss of taste or smell
 - Vomiting or diarrhea for more than 24 hours

- Do you have a new onset of two or more of the following symptoms?
 - Runny nose
 - Muscle aches
 - Fatigue
 - Conjunctivitis/Pink eye
 - Headache
 - Skin rash of unknown cause
 - Nausea/Loss of appetite
- Have you been in contact with someone over the last 14 days with someone that is confirmed to have COVID19?
- Have you had laboratory exposure while working directly with specimens known to contain COVID19?
- Have you been in a setting in the last 14 days that has been identified by Public Health as a risk for acquiring COVID19 such as on a flight, at a workplace with a cluster of cases or at an event?
- Have you travelled outside of Manitoba in the last 14 days excluding travel to Western Canada, the territories, or Ontario west of Terrace Bay?

If the answer is ‘yes’ to any of the above questions, the student or adult must remain at home.

Monitoring Health in School

Upon entry to school, teachers and staff will monitor for illness on an on-going basis that addresses the following COVID-19 specific symptoms: fever, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, chills, headache, runny nose or nasal congestion, sore throat or painful swallowing, feeling unwell or fatigued, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, unexplained loss of appetite, loss of sense of taste or smell, aching muscles or joints, and conjunctivitis (pink eye). The online screening tool can be found at <https://sharedhealthmb.ca/covid19/screening-tool/>.

What Happens if a Staff Member Exhibits Symptoms?

If a staff member or volunteer in a school becomes symptomatic, they should immediately isolate themselves from other staff and children, notify the principal, and go home to isolate. They should then contact Health Links – Info Santé (204-788-8200 or 1-888-315- 9257) or their health care provider for further directions.

At the school, cleaning and disinfecting must occur. Focus should be on high-touch areas and areas where the staff or volunteer spent time.

Medical notes will not be required for staff who have COVID-19 or flu-related symptoms, or for those who are caring for individuals in this situation.

A sick staff member can return to work once it has been determined that it is safe to do so by their health care provider or public health. If that staff member has a positive test, further direction will be provided by public health.

In the event a teacher is unable to teach due to illness and/or self-isolation, a substitute teacher must be assigned. In the event a certified substitute teacher is not available, a non-certified substitute or community member may perform the teacher's duties under the Limited Teaching Permit guidelines from Manitoba Education.

What Happens if a Child Exhibits Symptoms?

If a child develops symptoms while at school, the child must be isolated immediately and given a medical mask. Staff providing care for the child should wear PPE (mask, gloves, gown, and shield) when physical distancing cannot be maintained. Parents/Guardians will be notified and the child will be sent home when it is safe to do so. Once the student has left the school, staff members and students should wash their hands. Additional environmental cleaning of affected areas is required, focusing on high-touch areas where the child may have spent time. All items used by the child should be cleaned and disinfected.

A sick child can return to school once it has been determined that it is safe to do so by their health care provider or public health. If that child has a positive test, further direction will be provided by Public Health.

Students Isolating at Home

Anyone contacted by Public Health to self-isolate is expected to comply and stay home. Not complying with the Public Health Order may result in fines or detentions. All persons must avoid unnecessary travel and mass gatherings. If a household member is caring for someone with COVID-19, to prevent spread, they must not go back and forth between households.

Re-entry to School post-COVID-19

A student or staff member who meets any of the exclusion criteria above will not be admitted to the school and will be advised to immediately isolate and consult Health Links – Info Santé or their health care provider.

Those with symptoms should be tested. If the test is negative for COVID-19, they can return 24 hours after symptoms resolve. If individuals do not get tested, they should isolate for 10 days from symptom onset, and may return if they have isolated for 10 days and symptoms have been resolved for 24 hours.

Outbreak Management

In the event of a COVID-19 outbreak in a Hutterite community, Public Health, with cooperation from community leaders and school staff, will lead the response and ensure appropriate supports are in place to coordinate the response such as remote learning. School closure is the last resort and will only be done upon evidence of transmission among multiple families in the community, a lack of compliance to Public Health directives, or in the event of a community lockdown by Manitoba Health. The criteria for lack of compliance is as follows: refusing to test or respond to contact tracing calls, parents, who should be self-isolating, sending students to school, or community leaders exhibiting a lack of transparency or outright resistance to public health officials.

Inter-Community and International Travel

Parents should consider postponing all non-essential travel; staying at home is the best way to protect yourself and others from COVID-19. Inter-community travel is not advised, especially to communities directly impacted by the virus. For the purposes of contact tracing and preventing school spread, any visits should be kept to small traceable groups.

International travellers are required to follow federal and provincial guidelines by self-isolating in a separate area. This means no contact with school-aged children and their close contacts. Students in close contact with an international traveller cannot attend school until the self-isolation period has been completed or Public Health deems it safe to return to school.

If there is a positive test result due to inter-community or international travel, any students in close contact will be unable to attend school until the self-isolation period is over or Public Health deems it safe to return.

Visitor Access

Visitors such as parents/guardians, healthcare providers, volunteers, and other non-staff adults entering the school should be limited to those who implement public health measures and activities that benefit student learning and well-being. All visitors and volunteers will adhere to self-screening, physical distancing, and recommended hygiene practices and, above all, stay at home if symptoms consistent with COVID-19 are present. All visitors will wear a mask, if physical distancing of 2 metres cannot be maintained and are required to sign in using the Visitor Sign in Register. A list of visitors will be maintained for contact tracing purposes.

Resources, Manipulatives, and Toys

The sharing of instructional materials, classroom resources, and classroom supplies will be discouraged or be kept to a minimum. Any shared items must be sanitized between uses. Additionally, it is recommended that schools only make manipulatives and toys available that are easily cleaned and disinfected. For example, plush toys should be avoided. Children's personal toys (i.e., for security or comfort) are not to be shared with other children and should be stored in a way that ensures this.

In general, group sensory play cannot be used at this time. Children should not use or handle modelling clay, indoor sand, and sensory tables, as these items cannot be easily disinfected. An exception can be made for children with additional support needs where the use of these items is an important part of their individual plan. These items should then be used under staff supervision and exclusively by the individual child.

Sharing Equipment and Materials

- Students are encouraged to avoid sharing items, including food or water bottles to the greatest extent possible. Students must label personal items and are encouraged to keep personal belongings with them.
- ICT equipment will be wiped after each classroom use with a soft cloth and sanitizing spray.
- Sanitizing spray will be placed at the photocopier to be used after each use.

- Outdoor activities are encouraged as much as possible with the promotion of individual activity to minimize contact. Contact sports and games, or the use of shared equipment is discouraged. If student do share equipment it should be cleaned after each use.
- Public health advises that playgrounds and play structures are low risk for transmission and there are no recommended specific requirements for cleaning play structures.
- If gym equipment needs to be shared between classes, it will be sanitized after each class.
- All classrooms will have individualized sets of recess equipment.

Recess and Breaks

Manitoba Public Health advises that playgrounds and play structures are low-risk for transmission. At present, there are no specific requirements for cleaning play structures. Handwashing will take place before and after recess. In Hutterian schools with larger populations, staggered scheduling for recess--e.g. older and younger students--may be implemented to facilitate physical distancing and general safety. Overall, students should avoid congregating into groups.

Field Trips / Off-Site Activities

Field trips are prohibited.

Specialty Programming

Specialty programming in Hutterite schools varies widely. Each school will have to specifically assess their programming. The following are of significant importance:

- Music: The risk of viral transmission via singing is significant therefore schools must suspending this activity.
- Physical Education: These activities can continue provided daily symptom monitoring, masking, physical distancing, and cohorts, etc. are maintained. All activities requiring movement must take place outdoors or in-doors but limited to non-contact sports and mask use.

Interactive Instructional Television (IITV) and Other Forms of Distance Education

Most Hutterite schools employ the use of IITV to deliver high school programming. By its very nature, this is COVID-19-safe especially if other preventative practices and measures, such as physical distancing or cohorts are in place. All class trips and gatherings associated with these courses that cannot maintain the strictest safety protocols must be canceled.

German Language Classes

The same health and safety practices and measures implemented during the regular school day must also be observed during community-based events or instruction times, such as the German language and religious studies classes typically offered before and/or after the regular school day.

Food Handling: Essnschuel and Snacks

With the community's children eating all meals with their school cohort, the Essnschuel (children's dining room) is to be considered an extension of the school environment. As such, there must be a direct link of communication between the school and the Essnschuel parents.

If non-Hutterite teachers eat in the community dining room, this practice must be suspended. They must either bring their own food, or it must be safely delivered using the guidelines below. For all meals and school snacks, the following guidance applies:

- All food must be served by servers wearing masks.
- Individuals working with food must practice meticulous hand hygiene.
- Utensils should be used to serve food.
- Remove shared food containers from eating areas, i.e., snack bowls, pitchers of water or milk, and salt and pepper shakers.
- If using single service packets of condiments, provide the packet directly to each individual, rather than self-serving from a bulk container.
- For snack programs, dispense snacks directly to children or use prepackaged snacks.
- Implement other measures as necessary or if directed by local public health officials.
- Cease activities involving student participation in food preparation.

Expectations Attendance and Remote Learning

Regular attendance at school is required if possible. If remote learning is included as part of students' learning plan, students will be expected to participate. Students who are unable to return to school due to personal or family health risks factors related to COVID-19 will be supported via remote learning. In-class learning may be increased or suspended on short notice in response to changing public health advice. If remote learning is required, the teacher will provide consistently scheduled learning supports.

Recovery Learning

Students will need time to adjust to new school routines and expectations. Some students had lower participation in remote learning than others, and educators will need to be creative to address the achievement and learning gaps that may exist. If remote learning continues, regular check-ins and assessment will support students' well-being and help students learn to the greatest extent possible.

Contingency Plan for Instruction Levels Two or Three

When in-class learning (Level One) is not possible, the following plans will be implemented on an as-needed basis:

Level Two (Blended Learning):

- K-8 students and students with special needs will be prioritized for in-class learning and 9-12 students will participate in teacher-led remote learning with limited use of school facilities for specific programming and assessment.
- The full two metres of physical distancing are required with masks worn by students Grade 4-12.
- Teaching will prioritize core curriculum and required courses.
- Teachers will facilitate regular contact with students to keep them engaged in remote learning with the standards for remote learning clearly articulated.
- Access to learning resources, including technology and connectivity will be actively sought.

The three levels are outlined in Appendix A of https://manitoba.ca/asset_library/en/covid/k-12-reopeningplan-stage-2.pdf.

Level Three (Remote Learning):

- The school is closed and all students are engaged in teacher-led remote learning. In some communities this will take place with the support of an on-site volunteer appointed and trained before-hand.
- Physical distancing, masks, and hygiene measures will be observed with the dissemination and return of instructional materials.
- Teaching will focus on literacy, numeracy, and other curricular areas as time and resources permit.
- Teachers will facilitate regular contact with students to keep them engaged in remote learning with the standards for remote learning clearly articulated.
- Access to learning resources, including technology and connectivity will be actively sought.

Supports for Students with Special Needs

Students with special needs in all grades will return for five days of full, in-class instruction per week. There are unique challenges experienced by students with special learning needs and they may require additional support. Because these needs are diverse, schools may require additional specific supports to address their students' needs:

- When reviewing and updating Individual Education Plans (IEPs), considering changes in school environment or remote learning needs.
- Safely support the return of medically fragile students by consulting with families and local public health authorities on any new risk factors and implementing staff training as needed. If a return is not deemed feasible, continue remote learning.
- Accommodate the needs of students who require significant personal support.
- Consider alternate attendance options, depending on students' needs.

Professional Development

Professional Learning is important and valuable as part of pandemic response planning. Schools and school divisions are encouraged to align their professional learning with these themes: recovery learning, remote learning strategies, collaborative planning, mental health and well-being.

Mental Health and Well Being

Schools commit to providing a safe and welcoming environment to support the mental health of staff and students. Staff will monitor every student to ensure they are feeling comfortable in school and check for behaviours that are outside their normal baseline. Schools will provide mental health and social emotional support to any student requiring assistance.

For more information, visit <https://www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/covid/support/rsssn.html>. 18
Manitobans over the age of 16 can access Virtual Therapy at
<https://www.gov.mb.ca/covid19/bewell/virtualtherapy.html>.

Conclusion

This document is subject to changes and updates as School divisions, Hutterite schools and communities, and Manitoba contend with the highly fluid nature of COVID-19. For the latest COVID-19 Education News, visit <https://www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/covid/index.html>.

Bibliography

Restoring Safe Schools: August 13 - School Settings Practice Guidance and Protocols,
<https://manitoba.ca/covid19/restoring/rss-practice-guidance.html>.

Restoring Safe Schools: July 30 - Guidelines for September 2020,
<https://manitoba.ca/covid19/restoring/rss-guidelines-september.html>.

Welcoming our Students Back: Restoring Safe Schools - K-12 Guidelines for September 2020
https://manitoba.ca/asset_library/en/covid/k-12-reopeningplan-stage-2.pdf. July 30, 2020.

November 3, 2020



Dear School/Educational Institute Leaders:

The Prairie Mountain Health Public Health team have been noting that most students and staff are staying home when ill as per Provincial Public Health guidelines. However, we are noting with concern, that various students/staff are returning to school 24 hrs (and sometimes even less time) after symptom resolution without going for a COVID 19 test. There is the potential that such a person could be positive for COVID 19 (even if feeling better) and be infectious.

I wanted to connect with you today to share this reminder of the recommended guidelines for returning to school following illness. Any student or staff member that have any COVID 19 type symptom(s), even if mild, must follow these guidelines in order to decrease potential transmission of COVID 19 at our schools / educational institutions.

From the Department of Education's FAQ,
https://www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/covid/docs/ga_welcome_back_combined.pdf

- **How long does a person need to isolate if they have flu-like or COVID-19 symptoms and they have a test that says they do not have COVID-19?** They may return to work or school 24 hours after they are symptom-free if they have a COVID-19 test and the result confirms that they do not have COVID-19.
- **How long does a person need to isolate if they have a COVID-19 test that shows they have COVID-19?** They must isolate for a minimum of 10 days following a positive COVID-19 test, and until their symptoms have resolved for 24 hours. Public Health will notify them when they can come out of isolation.
- **How long does a person need to isolate if they have flu-like or COVID-19 symptoms and do not get tested for COVID-19?** They must isolate for 10 days following the onset of symptoms. They can stop isolation at Day 10 if they have been symptom-free for 24 hours.

I would appreciate if you could share this important reminder with your staff, your students and their parents / caregivers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "A Frykoda".

Dr. Amy Frykoda, MD, CCFP, FCFP, MSc
Medical Officer of Health
Manitoba Health