



BRANDON
SCHOOL DIVISION
WWW.BSD.CA

2021/2022 School Opening Plan

August 24, 2021

BRANDON SCHOOL DIVISION
1031 – 6TH STREET
BRANDON, MB R7A 4K5
PHONE: 204-729-3100
EMAIL: INFO@BSD.CA

Brandon School Division is looking forward to the full return of in-class learning for all Kindergarten to Grade 12 students. We are equally committed to keeping our students and staff safe.

While no single protective measure can eliminate the risk of infection, Brandon School Division can reduce the level of risk from COVID-19 through multiple layers of protection. Many of the measures that were in place last year will continue, including the following:

- Students and staff will continue to follow the fundamentals of self-screening, hand hygiene, respiratory etiquette, and staying home when sick.
- Provision of remote learning for immunocompromised students or students with family members who are immunocompromised.
- Use of multiple entrances and management of hallway traffic to minimize congestion of students.
- Use of cohorts in K-8 classes.
- Increased ventilation where possible.
- Physical distancing to the greatest extent possible.

There are some notable changes in our planning for the upcoming school year. These changes include:

- Full return of in-class learning for all Kindergarten to Grade 12 students.
- Full curriculum opportunities.
- Transportation will return to pre-COVID practices with additional cleaning and seating plans.
- Extra-curricular activities are allowed.
- Mandated mask use in buildings and on buses.
- Brandon School Division staff are required to provide proof of vaccination or undergo regular COVID-19 testing.

The School Opening Plan will be reviewed monthly and adjusted accordingly as the public health context evolves and the impact on schools becomes clearer.

The 2021/2022 School Opening Plan provides further details for students, parents, and staff. Our schools will be working with families and staff to implement a safe environment that reflects the context of each school. We look forward to the return to in-class learning for our students and staff and the greater access to a range of experiences. The additional measures put in place reflect the desire to keep our students and staff safe through a layered approach. In addition to decreasing the risk to students and staff, the measures increase the opportunity for our schools to safely remain open with as little disruption as possible.

Sincerely,
Mathew Gustafson
A/Superintendent / Chief Executive Officer

General items

- Kindergarten to Grade 12 students are learning in class.
- Full curriculum is being taught.
- Guidelines will be reviewed monthly and adjusted as required.
- Isolation area required in each building.
- Staff and students will continue to follow the fundamentals (self-screening, hand hygiene, respiratory etiquette, and staying home when sick). Guidance is found at www.gov.mb.ca/covid19/fundamentals/focus-on-the-fundamentals.html.
- Schools will ensure the ongoing practice of hand hygiene stations at entrances and exits to school facilities and classrooms and encourage frequent usage.
- It is important that parents and guardians screen their child(ren) for COVID-19 symptoms before sending them to school each day. A self-screening tool is available at <https://sharedhealthmb.ca/covid19/screening-tool/>.
- Schools can require students or staff who are showing symptoms to stay home, encourage them to seek testing and follow public health recommendations and orders on testing. Current public health information on isolation requirements and exemptions is found at <https://manitoba.ca/covid19/fundamentals/self-isolation.html>.
- Visitors and volunteers are permitted on a limited, as needed basis. All visitors and volunteers will be required to wear masks, sign in, and follow the fundamentals.
- Staggered start:
 - Schools will have the ability to schedule a staggered start for students to a maximum of two days for the purpose of:
 - Providing opportunity for parents to bring school supplies, see the classroom setup, and ask questions of the teacher;
 - Providing opportunity to adjust class lists to address late registrations;
 - Providing opportunity for students to learn classroom routines related to COVID planning.

Students who are immunocompromised

- Manitoba Remote Learning Support Centre will provide remote learning for students in Kindergarten to Grade 8 who are immunocompromised or who have family members who are immunocompromised. If demand exceeds spots available, Brandon School Division will create learning opportunities for families.
- InformNet, Teacher Mediated Options and Learning from Home School/L'École Apprendre-chez-soi are available for students in Grades 9 to 12 who are immunocompromised.

Mask Use

- Masks are mandated in buildings and on buses.
- Masks will be available to students and staff.
- Masks are not required outdoors.
- Mask exemptions are available for individuals who are unable to properly wear a mask or who have a medical condition that does not allow them to wear a mask. Mask exemption forms are available at the school office.

Staff Vaccinations or Testing

- Brandon School Division staff who have ongoing contact with vulnerable populations are required to provide proof of vaccination or undergo regular COVID-19 testing.
- This includes teachers, support staff, bus drivers, custodial staff, and practicum students.
- Designated employees who cannot provide proof of vaccination will need to undergo COVID-19 testing up to three times per week and provide a negative test result before they can resume working.
- The first vaccine dose needs to be completed by September 7, 2021 and the second dose by October 17, 2021.

Physical Distancing

- Schools will use physical distancing to the greatest extent possible.
- Schools will manage the flow of people in common areas, including hallways and washrooms, to minimize crowding and allow for the ease of people passing through. They will implement the practice of staggered entrance and exit times or use separate entrances (if feasible).
- Designated entrances and exits will allow for separation of cohorts and minimize crowding.
- Signage and floor markings will be used to assist with traffic flow.
- Schools will be prepared to implement physical distancing requirements of 1 to 2 metres when recommended or directed by public health officials in the contingency planning.
- Libraries and other common spaces will have seating arranged to maintain 2-metre spacing.
- No shared lockers unless for students from the same household.
- Singing and wind instruments require 2-metre physical distancing.

Classrooms and Cohorts

- Classrooms
 - Seating plans for all classrooms

- All non-essential furniture removed
- Utilization of classroom spaces should be maximized to physically distance desks, with the exception of guided reading tables
- Schools will use cohorts for Kindergarten to Grade 6 to assist with limiting potential close contacts and to minimize exposure for students who are not yet eligible for vaccinations. There is the potential to move away from cohorts as the year progresses, depending on public health recommendations at the time.
- K-8 schools will use designated entrances and exits to allow for separation of cohorts.
- Grades 7 – 8: cohorts of up to 75 to accommodate Industrial Arts, Home Economics, and Band.
- Grades 9 – 12: no cohorts.
- Grades 9 – 12 students who have spares in their timetable may stay in identified areas with 2-metre spacing or may leave the building.
- Students should arrive at school as close to class time as possible to reduce congestion.

Transportation

- School transportation will return to pre-COVID policies and practices with some additional cleaning requirements.
- Buses will be at full capacity.
- Assigned seating will be retained and attendance taken daily.
- Students from the same household will sit together.

Ventilation

- Schools will apply guidance, including the following:
 - Move activities outdoors when possible (for example: lunch, classes, and physical activity) and consider moving classrooms outside when space and weather permit.
 - Ensure that the ventilation system operates properly.
 - Increase air exchanges by adjusting the HVAC system.
 - Open windows when possible and if weather permits.
 - Maximize space and avoid crowded rooms and hallways.

Cleaning and Disinfecting

- Since the risk of COVID-19 transmission from surfaces is low, a transition to pre-COVID cleaning practices will occur.
- Cleaning and disinfecting will focus on high-touch surfaces and common areas but frequency can return to normal practices. Washrooms and water fill stations are the exception, as they require more intensive cleaning.

- Schools will be prepared to enhance cleaning and disinfection measures and protocols when required.
- Schools will:
 - Monitor hand hygiene supplies to ensure an ample supply at all sinks in washroom and kitchen areas.
 - Continue to implement touchless water drinking practice, including the use of water bottles and touchless water fountains where available.
 - Perform good hand hygiene after waste removal.

Food Handling, Cafeteria, Breakfast/Lunch Programs

- Breakfast and lunch programs are permitted; cohorts will be maintained.
- Only school staff will handle, prepare, and serve food, following all safe food handling protocols.
- Utensils should be used.
- Remove shared food containers from eating areas. If using single serve packets of condiments, provide them directly to students. Use prepackaged snacks and serve them directly to students.
- Kitchen and cafeteria areas will be open. Allow 2 metres of physical distancing for seating and avoid overcrowding.
- Ensure proper hand hygiene practices.
- Food and nutrition courses involving food preparation with students may continue if supervised by qualified staff who follow industry standards.

Band, Choir, Music (wind instruments and singing indoors)

- Band, Choir, and Music programs are permitted, with physical distancing and other measures.
- Encourage spacing where possible and consider outdoor classrooms as weather permits. Wind instruments and singing require 2-metre physical distancing.
- Sharing of music stands and sheet music is permitted, provided good hand hygiene practices are followed.
- Instruments, including accessories (for example: drumsticks, mallets) should not be shared. If sharing instruments and accessories is required, then they will be thoroughly cleaned between users.

Technology Education

- Technology education programming is permitted, provided public health measures are followed.
- When planning for technical-vocational, industrial arts, human ecology, and applied commerce education programs, Manitoba COVID-19 support documents may provide

useful sector-specific information. These documents are available at https://manitoba.ca/asset_library/en/coronavirus/restoring-workplace-guidance.pdf.

Manipulatives

- Shared play stations (for example: water tables and sand tables) are permitted, provided good hand hygiene before and after use is practiced.
- School and classroom libraries are open for use. Ensure good hand hygiene before and after use.
- Sharing of manipulatives is to be avoided if possible. If required, ensure cleaning between users.

Recovery Learning and Mental Health Supports

- Families can contact their school to access additional supports.

Extra-Curricular Activities

- Extra-curricular activities, including sports and optional programming, are allowed as long as the activities follow current public health recommendations and orders at the time.
- Schools will follow the Manitoba High School Athletic Association return to play guidelines.

Field Trips

- Field trips are not permitted at this time.

Assemblies

- No assemblies will be held, unless they are virtual.

Community Use of Schools

- Community use of schools is not permitted at this time.

Contingency Plans

- Schools will develop contingency plans for potential changes to public health and Manitoba Education guidelines and directives.
- Guidelines and plans will be adapted during the school year to reflect the changing public health situation.