**COVID-19 School Information – Updated January 17, 2022**

**Screening**

As always, we encourage all families to screen their children on a daily basis and to remain home if any symptoms are identified. Information on screening is available here: [Screening Tool - Shared Health (sharedhealthmb.ca)](https://sharedhealthmb.ca/covid19/screening-tool/)

**Positive Cases and Symptoms at School**

Thank you for continuing to keep the school apprised of positive cases that are occurring in your family, particularly with your children.  The case management system for schools has changed as we enter into this new phase of the pandemic, but we still need to keep on top of the cases occurring within the school. As well, we appreciate parents’ quick response to calls from the school regrading a symptomatic child. We realize that this puts pressure on families and your commitment to keeping the school as safe as possible.

**Siblings of Symptomatic Children**- Public Health is advising hat anyone exhibiting COVID symptoms consider themselves positive and seek testing. All household members are then considered to be close contacts of this presumed positive case. With this change, siblings of a child who exhibits symptoms at school or home must also self-isolate until it is confirmed that the symptomatic child is negative. This holds true for children of symptomatic parents or other household members as well. This is different from the previous guidance and important for families to know.

**Testing and Isolation Requirements**

All symptomatic people are encouraged to attend a provincial test site for testing. Testing can be done using a rapid Antigen Test. Students are eligible to go for a confirmatory PCR test if families wish. Information on testing is available through the following link: [Province of Manitoba | Testing Eligibility (gov.mb.ca)](https://www.gov.mb.ca/covid19/testing/testing-eligibility.html)

Students exposed to a household member who has a positive COVID-19 result are considered close contacts. As indicated above, all symptomatic people are to assume they are COVID positive until they are confirmed negative. Therefore, if a parent or other household member is symptomatic, children must remain at home unless exempt from self-isolation. Students exposed at school are not considered close contacts and may attend school if asymptomatic.

Fully vaccinated individuals who are asymptomatic do not need to self-isolate is they are a close contact. In order to be considered fully vaccinated, all students kindergarten through grade eight must be two weeks past their vaccine second dose. Provincial isolation requirements and exemptions can be found here: [Province of Manitoba | Self-Isolation (gov.mb.ca)](https://www.gov.mb.ca/covid19/fundamentals/self-isolation.html).

**School Notifications**

Schools will no longer send out community or close contact notifications of positive cases. We will communicate regularly with families regarding attendance trends and positive cases. Information on school cases can be accessed via the [Provincial Dashboard](https://geoportal.gov.mb.ca/apps/manitoba%3A%3A-covid-19-dashboard-school-aged-cases-and-school-staff-cases-in-manitoba/explore). Families are still strongly encouraged to report positive cases to the school.The school will work with public health to monitor cases and take further action when necessary. This could include sending an **Alert Letter**, instituting a **Rapid Test Regimen** or moving to **Remote Learning** for a period of time.

**Masks**- The school will provide medical masks for all students. We encourage families who have cloth masks to send to do so; students can use these as a second layer over the medical masks and for outdoor recess if they feel more comfortable wearing a mask while outside. Masks are required during Physical Education classes.

**Music Class**

There are some adjustments to Music class as we begin again. Singing can only occur when 2 M of physical distancing is maintained.

**Remote Learning**-Public Health and Manitoba Education have advised all schools that we must return to in-school learning. At this time there is no option for remote learning and all students must attend class in person. Teachers will prepare learning packages for students who are sick or are required to self-isolate.

**Distancing**

All school spaces have been evaluated over the past week to maximize distancing between students. All students will be 2 M apart during times when their masks are off (lunch, snack, breathing breaks).

**Desk Shields**

We have installed the desk shields that were in use last year. Although these are not ideal from a teaching/learning perspective, they do provide an additional level of safety for students and staff.

**Vaccination Clinic for Second Dose**

The school will host a second dose vaccination clinic for Kindergarten to Grade 6 students, but we have not received a date from Public Health. As soon as we receive this information, we will let families know.