** Restricted Level (Orange) at St. Alphonsus School**

Manitoba Public Health and Manitoba Education have raised the COVID-19 Response Level in schools in the Winnipeg Region to the Restricted Level (Orange). Public Health has indicated that while very little transmission is occurring in schools at this point, these additional public health measures are needed to allow schools to respond to the current risks with rising infections and community transmission. This shift will require additional physical distancing and some other health and safety measures at the school.

**Increasing Physical Distancing**

We are very fortunate indeed to have additional spaces that can be re-purposed to allow **all** learners to remain in school at the increased physical distancing. Desk shields will be put into place.

**Specialist Programming**

Our specialist programming (French, Music and Physical Education) is an important part of our students’ school experience and we know that students and families value these programs. Our plan allows for these subjects to continue with some adjustments in accordance with Public Health Orders.

* **Physical Education** will continue to take place. Students will wear masks at all time in the gym during Orange. It will be very important through the winter for all students to be prepared to be outside for classes (40 minutes in length) as well as recess and the Before and After School Program. We will follow guidelines from Environment Canada regarding weather in determining when students should stay inside.
* **Music** will continue. Singing will only be allowed when 2 M of physical distancing can be maintained.
* **French** will continue as it has during the Yellow level, with Madame Curwain moving to classrooms.

**Before and After School Program**

Childcare is a critical service for many of our families. Our Circle of Friends, before and after school program will continue operating. The program will shift out of the gym and into smaller groupings upstairs when they are inside.

**School Entrances and Exits**

The school entrances and exits used by your children will remain the same for the Restricted Level (Orange).

**Temporary Remote Learning**

Our school staff has worked tirelessly over the pandemic to ensure that we are keeping students as safe as possible. In-person learning is important for children’s academic growth and mental health. We will continue to prioritize in-person learning as long as Manitoba Public Health considers schools to be a safe place for students and staff.

Over the course of the year, there may be times when your child must self-isolate due to COVID exposure or infection. As a result, we are prepared to offer temporary remote learning during the Restricted Level (Orange). Remote learning places an additional strain on our resources as it is challenging for teachers to be attentive to students both at school and at home. Therefore this option is only open for families who have an adult at home who can support their child in learning. We will use a concurrent classroom model where students will join into classes that are happening at school via Zoom or Microsoft Teams, as well as packages of learning materials that families will pick-up.

There are a few important things to note:

1. The expectations for remote learning remain high. Students must attend online classes and appointments with school staff if they are feeling well enough to do so.
2. Families will be sent Zoom or Teams links to join into classes at the teacher’s discretion. Students will not be online with their class for the entire school day. Teachers will create a schedule for families.
3. Attendance is mandatory and will be recorded. Students may be required to attend school (or an alternate setting) for assessment and discussions with teacher, as needed and requested.
4. The Learning Priority for remote learners will be core subject areas: ELA, Math, Science and Social Studies. Optional supplementary programming will not be offered.

Thank you for your continued patience and trust as we navigate these new situations to provide the best and safest learning environment for our students.