



Park West School Division

Learners Today, Leaders Tomorrow

Date: Friday, October 30, 2020

Topic: **Update to parents, guardians, and staff**

New emergency measures have been announced for Manitoba. Winnipeg Region has been placed in Response Level Red while the rest of the province is now in Level Orange. All schools in Manitoba will be in Response Level Orange. This includes Park West. These orders are effective on Monday. The specific directions related to Level Orange are found on pages 2-3 of this document.

While there are heightened expectations for schools, this will not mean any significant change in our current attendance expectations. K-8 students will continue to come every day and high school students will attend no less than every second day. The safety measures and protocols that we have implemented in our schools are working and should continue to keep our students and staff safe. The exceptional planning that has already occurred at our schools will help us to transition to this new response level.

Our school teams will determine what additional planning and work is required for their buildings. This will involve implementing several measures as quickly as reasonably possible. These will include:

- Ensuring 2 metres of spacing to the greatest extent possible, although cohorts will still be permitted.
- Repurposing other school spaces to accommodate physical distancing.
- Offering remote learning at individual school sites if there is a need to accommodate physical distancing requirements.
- Continuing with blended learning for grades 9 – 12. Blended learning in our context references having high school students attend on alternate days.
- Suspending indoor choir and the use of indoor wind instruments.
- Postponing or cancelling all field trips.
- Requiring medical masks of teachers and staff that move across cohorts or schools. This includes substitute teachers and itinerant divisional staff such as maintenance, ICT, and division office personnel. The blue medical-grade disposable masks have been issued to all schools since the beginning of September. N95 masks are not required.
- Requiring masks for Grades 4 and up in all indoor public places including the division office.

Principals and divisional staff met this afternoon to discuss these new measures and will reconvene on Monday to continue planning.

Thanks in advance for your ongoing support and patience as we deal with the challenges of the pandemic. As always, the safety of students and staff will continue to be the priority for Park West School Division.

Restricted Level (Orange) for K-12 Schools

| Response Plan Measure | Provincial Restricted Level Orange |
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| Physical distancing measures | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Schools must ensure two meters of physical distancing to the greatest extent possible, and adjust classroom space as necessary. ▪ Excess furniture must be removed from classrooms to create additional space. ▪ Other spaces within schools must be repurposed to accommodate more distancing (e.g., multipurpose rooms, empty rooms, shared spaces, common areas, and libraries). ▪ Extracurricular activities are only permitted if all learning and distancing requirements have been met. If these activities continue, established guidelines must be followed and, in the case of sports, participants should maintain distance when not active. |
| K-8 Temp. Remote learning | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ K-8 students may be offered a temporary remote learning option for the duration of the Restricted level (Orange). ▪ This strategy serves the following purposes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ It addresses continuity of learning in response to expected higher levels of absenteeism due to more students self-isolating as a result of COVID-19 and due to concerns around safety as a result of the community based transmission; ○ It ensures that children who are at home on a temporary basis maintain a connection to their teacher(s) and classmates; and ○ It creates additional space in schools and classrooms to maintain as much distancing as possible for those who continue in-class learning and to reduce occupancy on busses on a voluntary basis. |
| Grade 9-12 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Blended learning (in class and online) for grades 9 to 12 where distancing cannot be achieved will continue as per status quo. |
| Students with special needs | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ No change ▪ All grades continue to be prioritized for in-class learning five days per week to ensure that those who cannot manage remote learning independently receive the supports they need. Individualized education plans must be developed. |

| Response Plan Measure | Provincial Restricted Level Orange |
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| School bus transportation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ No change. ▪ Masks are required on buses for bus drivers, students and any other passenger on the bus. ▪ Parents and caregivers are strongly encouraged to transport students if they are able. |
| Child care | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ No change. ▪ Child care centres located within schools will continue to operate at the current capacity: Maximum of 30 children in child care centres. Separate cohorts of children no larger than 30. |
| Mask guidance | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Teachers and staff who move across cohorts of students, including substitute teachers, are required to wear medical masks. ▪ Medical-grade disposable masks have been issued to all schools. N95 masks are not required. |
| Teaching/learning focus | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Prioritize literacy, numeracy, science and social studies. ▪ Facilitate regular contact with students to keep them engaged in remote learning. Standards for remote learning should be followed. This will be monitored in the event that adjustments are required. ▪ Ensure access to learning resources for all, including technology and addressing connectivity issues. |
| Band/choir | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Indoor choir and the use of wind instruments are not permitted. |
| Field trips | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ All field trips are to be postponed or cancelled. |