



Park West School Division

Learners Today, Leaders Tomorrow

Date: Tuesday, November 10, 2020

Topic: **Update to parents, guardians, and staff – RESPONSE LEVEL RED**

New emergency measures have been announced for Manitoba. The entire province will now be in **Response Level Red** as of Thursday. All schools in Manitoba will remain in Response Level Orange.

Given that schools are continuing in Level Orange, K-8 students will continue to come every day and high school students will continue to 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.

Our school teams have been busy as of late preparing for Level Orange. In many schools, staff has:

- Moved students to 2 metres of spacing to the greatest extent possible, although cohorts are still required in some elementary classes and blended learning continues for all high school students.
- Repurposed other school spaces to accommodate physical distancing. Several schools have split larger K-8 classes to ensure physical distancing. The division has added staffing and technology to accommodate this when needed.

Level Red does have an additional requirement for self-isolation:

- Anyone who is symptomatic must isolate as past practice. Now if anyone in the household is symptomatic, the entire household needs to self-isolate.
- Exemptions are in place for asymptomatic household members if they are school-based staff (including teachers, educational assistants, secretaries, librarians, custodians) as well as bus drivers. Manitoba Education has told us that they are essential to keeping schools open and cannot be replaced. With any exemption, staff must wear a medical mask, in addition to all other Public Health measures.
- Students must now stay home if they have a symptomatic member of their household.

There is also an additional restriction on school playgrounds. Public health orders now mandate closure of all play structures to members of the public during and after school hours and that all play structures are now for school use only.

Principals and divisional staff met this afternoon for discussion related to this change to Red.

As always, the division is grateful for your ongoing patience and understanding as we respond to these new developments.