

Goulter School

Ongoing Plan for the 2021–2022 School Year

January 17, 2022



Planning

Continual planning will occur throughout the 2021-2022 school year and will focus on:

- Ensuring a safe and healthy environment for all students and staff
- Having all students in class full-time
- Continuing to implement public health fundamentals (self-screening, hand hygiene and staying home when sick)
- Monitoring and implementing additional public health measures and contingency planning, as needed, to address changes in local community or school epidemiology
- Shifting towards addressing the impacts the pandemic has had on the mental health, well-being and learning of students and the school community

Priority 1: Health and Safety

Public health measures are adapted to reflect the changing public health situation. **Public Health Measures**

All staff and practicum students (this includes teachers, educational support staff, staff that work directly with students, including bus drivers, custodians and child care staff working in school-based early learning and child care facilities) working in Fort La Bosse School Division as per provincial public health orders, are required to be fully vaccinated or undergo frequent COVID-19 rapid testing.

Public health order will require regular COVID-19 tests at specific intervals for unvaccinated employees of designated sectors and will occur as per division policy.

Staff and students must continue to follow the fundamentals (self-screening, hand hygiene and staying home when sick). Students must stay home if they develop symptoms of COVID-19 and only return if they have followed isolation requirements as applicable and are symptom free for 24 hours.

Return to work for school staff have been developed and shared with staff directly.

Contingency Planning

The degree to which schools can remain open for in-class learning depends on several factors, such as vaccinations, variants of COVID-19 and the capacity of our health care system. We are committed to working with our public health and education partners to keep schools open for in-class learning.

Schools will plan to implement additional public health measures as outlined in the Caution (Yellow), Restricted (Orange) and Critical (Red) levels of the Pandemic Response System.

As the level of risk changes, public health officials may identify regions or schools of concern.

Schools will work with public health officials and Manitoba Education to implement the appropriate additional public health measures and contingency plans. Depending on the situation at the time, public health guidance may require modification to some provisions.

School-wide shifts to remote learning will be a measure of last resort.

For symptomatic students who are required to stay home, smooth learning transitions will be needed.

Classroom teachers will ensure these students stay connected to on-going learning by providing at-home learning packages and/or remote learning until they are able to return to the class.

The provincial Manitoba Education Standards for Remote Learning guidelines will be followed by schools in temporary remote learning to ensure students will continue to learn and be assessed by their teachers. The guidelines can be found at:

www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/covid/docs/remote_learn_standards.pdf

Public Health Case and Contact Management

COVID-19 case and contact management processes that are currently in place will remain until public health officials advise otherwise.

Testing

Public access testing sites across the province, along with the dedicated Fast Pass sites, will remain open to ensure geographical access, appointment options, and quick turn around time to results.

The Provincial Testing Task Force continues to review testing capacity needs.

More information can be accessed at <https://www.gov.mb.ca/covid19/testing/rapid-testing.html>

Priority 2: Promoting Mental Health and Well-Being

Success: Mental health supports are responsive to the needs of students and school staff.

COVID-19 has impacted the mental health and wellness of many Manitoba students, educators and school staff. In-class learning, peer contact and school celebrations have been disrupted for a generation of students. Isolation and loneliness, as well as disruptions to routines and a sense of loss, have contributed to increased anxiety and depression. This impact has been heightened for those who have been disproportionately impacted by the pandemic. Teachers and staff have been responsive to the changing public health situation and the needs of their students and families, while also grappling with the impacts of the pandemic personally, alongside all Manitobans. This has taken a toll on all involved in the education system and the impacts are expected to be felt for years to come.

In the 2020–2021 school year, the province supported a number of initiatives that support student mental health and well-being with \$2.5 million invested over and above the per pupil funding provided to school divisions. Additional investments included the following:

- Project 11 – A classroom and virtual program developed by the True North Youth Foundation was expanded to additional grades.
- Provincial pilot of Enhanced School-Based Mental Health and Addictions Supports – This pilot integrates and enhances access to mental health and addiction supports for students in Grades 6 to 12.
- Kids Help Phone – The province invested in virtual programming for Kids Help Phone.
- The Remote Learning Support centre also offered services and supports to students and families through their team of service providers and their resources available at www.mbrelement.ca.
- Investments were made in Families and Schools Together to build resilient families with young, school-aged children.
- Investments were made in mental health supports for the Community Schools Program.
- Manitoba also invested in an expansion of Thrival Kits, developed by the Manitoba Advocate for Children and Youth.

Manitoba Education, the Manitoba School Boards Association, SAFE Work Manitoba, public health officials and other stakeholders also developed the Manitoba Pandemic Support Guides, a series of health and safety resources to support school staff. These guides included:

- Promoting Physical Safety - www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/covid/docs/mpsg_promote.pdf
- Taking Care of Yourself - www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/covid/docs/mpsg_taking_care.pdf
- Caring for Our Students - www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/covid/docs/mpsg_caring_student.pdf
- Resources for Students and Adults - www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/covid/docs/mpsg_resources.pdf

Mental health and well-being tip sheets that were developed as part of this strategy are available as follows:

- Tips for students – www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/covid/docs/tips_students
- Tips for Parents and Caregivers – www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/covid/docs/tips_parents.pdf
- Tips for Teachers – www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/covid/docs/tips_teachers.pdf
- Resources for Youth and Adults – www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/covid/docs/tips_resources.pdf

The province is developing a continuum of mental health and well being supports for Kindergarten to Grade 12 schools. These supports will strategically expand existing programming and add new programming to provide a range of supports to respond to the differential mental health impacts of the pandemic on students and teachers. Through per pupil funding and targeted investments, school divisions and independent schools are asked to prioritize mental health and well-being, and develop a plan in response to their local needs. This continuum of supports is important for responding to the needs of individual students and communities.

Partnerships with community organizations and stakeholders like The Manitoba Teachers Society, the Canadian Mental Health Association and the Manitoba Advocate for Children and Youth will also continue.

Priority 3: Assessing and Addressing Learning Impacts

Success: Students have access to and engage in high-quality learning and plans are in place to address learning impacts.

The continuity of education is central to our fall planning. The impacts of COVID-19 on student learning will be felt in the 2021–2022 school year and beyond. These impacts have affected students and staff in different ways and a varied, strategic approach to address them is required.

School divisions and schools will incorporate the following principles into their approach to addressing the impacts of COVID-19 on student learning:

- addressing the mental well-being of students and staff once in class learning has resumed, as a foundation for learning
- using assessments to further understand the impacts of COVID-19 for learners, examining themes across classes and school communities and using the results to inform planning
- understanding individual students' unique strengths and needs
- building plans that acknowledge the diversity of student and educator experiences during the pandemic
- collaborating with students, parents and caregivers, other classroom teachers and student services personnel
- meeting students where they are in their learning process as they transition from periods of remote learning back to in-class learning
- developing plans to address the holistic needs of students, especially students identified as having been most at risk during the pandemic
- providing access to rich learning experiences in all subject areas

Provincial Assessments

The province is committed to developing a new student assessment framework that includes strengthening classroom assessments in all grades and creating new summative assessments in the early years, middle years and Grade 10. In the 2021–2022 school year, the Grade 3 Assessment in Reading, Lecture and Numeracy and the Grade 4 Assessment in French Immersion Lecture, and the Middle Years Assessment of Key Competencies in Mathematics, Reading Comprehension and Expository Writing will continue. The assessments will be important for understanding the impact of COVID 19 on student learning.

The pandemic resulted in the cancellation of the Grade 12 provincial exams during the last two school years. The 2021–2022 school year is an opportunity to move forward with developing a Grade 10 assessment as recommended by the Commission on Kindergarten to Grade 12 Education. Therefore, the Grade 12 provincial tests will not proceed in 2021–2022 and the province will work towards the development of an assessment in Grade 10.

Remote Learning

In addition to the remote learning offered by school divisions in 2020–2021, the province launched the Manitoba Remote Learning Support Centre in January 2021 to provide direct remote learning supports to Kindergarten to Grade 8 students and teachers.

For 2021–2022, students who are immunocompromised (or those with household members who are) will continue to require remote learning. The province has committed \$5 million to the Manitoba Remote Learning Support Centre to provide remote learning for these students. For students in Grades 9 to 12, InformNet, Teacher Mediated Option (TMO) and Learning from Home School (LFHS)/L'École Apprendre-chez-soi will continue to provide remote learning options. InformNet will have capacity to support up to 3200 students. TMO will have capacity to support up to 800 students. LFHS, a French Immersion online high school, will have capacity to support up to 525 students.

In addition, because the 2021–2022 school year will continue to require staff and students to stay home when they are sick, schools and school divisions will plan for absenteeism. Classroom teachers will ensure smooth transitions to temporary remote learning by supporting the development and provision of at-home learning packages and/or remote learning for students who are isolating.

Priority 4: Vaccination Outreach and Promotion

It is important that youth in Manitoba are protected against COVID-19. The best way to achieve this is for youth to receive both doses of an approved COVID-19 vaccine as soon as they are eligible.

Schools located in communities with lower vaccine uptake will be prioritized to boost vaccination rates to help prevent outbreaks. Offering vaccinations in schools is safe and effective, and helps address accessibility barriers for many families. Families wishing to have their youth and children vaccinated outside of the school setting will continue to have access to other options, including pharmacies, primary care physicians and pop-up clinics in the community.

General Public Health Measures.

		Measures
Instructional Program	Kindergarten to Grade 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Modifications to delivery may be required as a result of current public health measures.
	Students with Special Learning Needs and Students at Risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students with special learning needs and students at risk may continue to require additional supports, as well as frequent collaboration and planning, strong communication, flexibility and creativity within the student support team. Students will continue to receive appropriate supports, as per the student-specific planning process and where required by their individual health care plans. School teams will continue to work in collaboration with families and related agencies and organizations that support children, youth and their families. Planning will take into account particular timelines, responsibilities of each partner and key practices across environments, to ensure appropriate educational programming is in place for in-class or remote learning.
	Students who are Immunocompromised	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Manitoba Remote Learning Support Centre will provide remote learning for students in Kindergarten to Grade 8 who are immunocompromised. 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.

	Measures
Physical Distancing and Cohorts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Schools will use cohorts for Kindergarten to Grade 6 to assist with case management and to minimize exposure for students. There is the potential to move away from cohorts as the year progresses, depending on public health recommendations at the time. Schools should encourage 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). Schools will be prepared to implement physical distancing requirements of 1 to 2 metres when recommended or directed by public health officials.
Masks and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Masks are required for all students and visitors. Students must wear a mask in the gym and on the bus. Masks can be removed indoors for eating/drinking when there is 2 metres of distance. All school staff are required to wear medical masks while indoors. Students are to wear well-fitting masks with at least 3 layers and will wear them in class, phys ed, and while riding the bus. Masks are available at the school. -
Transportation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transportation requirements will be based on public health advice. Drivers and passengers will be encouraged to practice good hand hygiene before and after trips. As of January 17, 2022 - high touch surfaces on the bus will be cleaned frequently (in between trips). Assigned seating will be retained. Masks are worn on the bus.
Extra-curricular, sports and field trips	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extra-curricular activities, including sports, optional programming and field trips follow current public health recommendations and orders at the time. As of January 17, 2022 - extra-curricular sports tournaments are paused. Types and size of gatherings and assemblies will align with public health recommendations and orders. Activities for K-6 will not proceed if they involve more than one cohort. Spectators should be restricted. As of January 17, 2022 - gatherings and assemblies will be postponed or
Assemblies and gatherings	shifted to virtual delivery. This includes virtual staff meetings and professional development, even when teachers and staff are working in schools

	Measures
Visitors, Community Use of Schools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Schools will ensure proper documentation of visitors is implemented to support case and contact management. As of January 17, 2022 - visitors will be limited to those needed for essential purposes. (ie. teacher candidates, immunizers, lunch program volunteers, other necessary services offered at schools.)
Public Health Fundamentals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students and staff will continue to follow hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette. Guidance is found at www.gov.mb.ca/covid19/fundamentals/focus-on-the-fundamentals.html. Schools will ensure the on-going 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.
Cleaning and Disinfecting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Since the risk of COVID-19 transmission from surfaces is low, more frequent cleaning and disinfecting of high touch surfaces will occur. Washrooms will have more intensive cleaning. Cleaning and disinfecting will focus on high-touch surfaces and common areas but frequency can return to normal practices. Washrooms 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 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. No-touch waste receptacles are preferred. Health Canada has posted a list of disinfectants shown to be effective against COVID-19 at www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/drugs-health-products/disinfectants/covid-19/list.html.

	Measures
Food Handling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> School staff or designated volunteers 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. Open kitchen and cafeteria areas to eat, but 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.
Sharing toys, and manipulatives and using the library	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The use of toys and manipulatives will follow public health advice at the time. Ensure hand hygiene before and after use. Shared play stations (e.g., 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
Ventilation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Schools will apply guidance, including the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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.
Music (Wind instruments and singing indoors)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wind instruments and indoor singing guidelines continue to be developed with more information to follow. As of January 17, 2022 - masks are to be worn while singing but can be removed, if 2 metres of distance can be maintained, while playing wind instruments. Assess ventilation, encourage spacing where possible and consider outdoor classrooms as weather permits. Sharing of music stands and sheet music is permitted, provided good hand hygiene practices are followed. Instruments, including accessories (e.g. drum sticks, mallets) should not be shared. If sharing instruments and accessories is required for equity purposes, then they will be thoroughly cleaned between users.

	Measures
Child Care Centres	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Schools will work cooperatively with school-based child care centres to ensure that they can continue to operate. This includes protection of designated child care centre space for child care centres in schools, and an approach to supporting shared spaces, including cleaning protocols.
Technology Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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, the following Manitoba COVID-19 support documents may provide useful sector-specific information: <i>Workplace Guidance for Business Owners and Guidance for Industry Sectors</i>. These documents are available at https://manitoba.ca/asset_library/en/coronavirus/restoring-workplace-guidance.pdf.

School reopening contingency plans for Caution (Yellow), Restricted (Orange) and Critical (Red) Levels

Schools will be prepared to implement measures as outlined in Caution (Yellow), Restricted (Orange) and Critical (Red) levels of the Pandemic Response System, as well as any additional public health measures in place at the time. The table below provides an overview of additional public health measures that may be required to ensure student and staff safety.

		Additional Public Health Measures		
		Caution (Yellow)	Restricted (Orange)	Critical (Red)
Instructional Programming	K to 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All students are in full-time class learning to the greatest extent possible. • Ensure K - 6 students are in cohorts • Maintain a distance of two metres between individuals to the greatest extent possible. • Ensure two metres of distancing before students remove their masks to eat and drink. • For music, ensure K - 6 students remain in cohorts with two metres of distance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All students are in class learning unless otherwise directed by public health officials. ie. a class or cohort may be directed by public health officials to isolate because of an outbreak within that class or cohort. • Schools must ensure two metres of physical distancing to the greatest extent possible. • K to 6 students must remain in cohorts. • In K to 6, limit the use of sharing toys, play stations and manipulatives. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School wide remote learning is a measure of last resort and will be directed by public health officials. • Schools must ensure two metres of physical distancing. If not possible, blended learning for K to 12 can be implemented. • Schools are open for Kindergarten to Grade 6 students of critical services workers who cannot make alternative care arrangements, students with special needs and students at risk. • Focus on literacy, numeracy and other curricular areas, as time and resources permit. • Classroom teacher provides remote learning to ALL students as per the Manitoba Education Standards for Remote Learning.

		Caution (Yellow)	Restricted (Orange)	Critical (Red)
Instructional Programming	9 to 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All students are in class learning to the greatest extent possible. • Modifications to program delivery may be required as a result of current public health measures. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Modifications to program delivery may be required as a result of public health measures. • Masks are to be worn in music class, including when singing and can be removed when playing wind instruments. • Students must wear a mask while in the gym during the school day, even while participating in an athletic activity. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If remote learning is implemented by public health, the classroom teacher provides remote learning to students as per the <i>Manitoba Education Standards for Remote Learning</i>.

	Caution (Yellow)	Restricted (Orange)	Critical (Red)
Physical Distancing and Cohorts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage physical distancing between students to the greatest extent possible. Other physical distancing and cohort measures for Kindergarten to Grade 6 continue to be followed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Schools must ensure two metres 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, shared spaces, common areas, and libraries). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two metres of physical distancing must be maintained for students who are in-class learning. Multiple groups are allowed to operate in a school setting at the same time, provided these groups can be segregated to prevent contact with each other. The use of separate entrances/exits and staggered drop-off/pick-up schedules should be employed to minimize congestion and mixing of groups. Other physical distancing and cohort measures found in Caution (Yellow) continue to be followed.
PPE (Masks)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mask use and any additional personal protective equipment usage will follow current public health recommendations and orders. 		

	Caution (Yellow)	Restricted (Orange)	Critical (Red)
Transportation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seating plans required. • Where possible individuals from the same household occupy the same seat. • Any additional measures would align with public health recommendations and orders at the time. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bussing will be based on divisions' discretions. Urban, rural and northern school divisions may transport children of critical service workers who do not have other means of transportation. • Any additional measures will align with public health recommendations and orders.
Field Trips and Extra-Curricular Activities			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any additional measures will follow public health recommendations and orders at the time.
Assemblies and gatherings			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any additional measures will follow public health recommendations and orders at the time.
Visitors and Community Use of Schools			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any additional measures will follow public health recommendations and orders at the time.
Cleaning and Disinfecting			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any additional measures will follow public health recommendations and orders at the time • Health Canada has posted a list of disinfectants shown to be effective against COVID-19 at www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/drugs-health-products/disinfectants/covid-19/list.html.

	Caution (Yellow)	Restricted (Orange)	Critical (Red)
Food Handling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any additional measures will follow public health recommendations and orders at the time. 		
Sharing Toys, Manipulatives, and Use of Libraries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any additional measures will follow public health recommendations and orders at the time. 		
Ventilation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any additional measures will follow public health recommendations and orders at the time. 		
Music, Wind Instruments and Singing Indoors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any additional measures will follow public health recommendations and orders at the time. 		