

MANITOBA PANDEMIC RESPONSE SYSTEM

March 15, 2022

Public health measures have been adapted to reflect the changing public health situation. Schools should prepare to implement additional public health measures under the Caution level (Yellow), Restricted level (Orange) or Critical level (Red) of the pandemic response system if and when public health officials direct schools and/or school divisions or regions to do so.



Measures for Kindergarten to Grade 12 schools at the Limited Risk level

General Practice

- Fundamentals continue (hand hygiene and staying home when sick). Further information is available at: <https://gov.mb.ca/covid19/fundamentals/focus-on-the-fundamentals.html>.
- Assess ventilation and seek solutions based on the *Society of Heating, Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE)* guidelines issued by Manitoba at <https://www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/covid/> under Ventilation.
- Physical distancing and cohorts are no longer required. Schools can begin to remove these measures as operationally feasible.
- School assembly and gathering decisions for in-person or virtual delivery can be made at the school or divisional level.
- Visitor and community use of schools can return to normal practice.

Masks

- Schools and child care facilities should follow public health guidance and align with the general public health guidance for Manitobans.
- The department will continue to work with school divisions and child care facilities as they work to implement public health direction and guidance.
- After March 15, 2022, schools and school divisions should provide mask guidelines for students and staff that align with public health recommendations, and remain places that respect individual choice regarding masks based on the individual's risk assessment. This means that individuals may choose to continue to wear masks, based on their individual risk or personal preference.
- Public health continues to recommend masks:
 - For those who are at higher risk of severe disease.
 - For individuals at higher risk of severe illness attending a crowded indoor setting, or if in a setting where many people are at higher risk for severe disease. For example, healthcare facilities and personal care homes continue to require mask use.
 - For individuals who are symptomatic, or have tested positive for COVID-19, they should wear a well-fitted, well made mask for 10 days if they must have contact with other people after symptoms develop or from their test date, if asymptomatic.
 - For individuals caring for someone who is sick or has tested positive for COVID-19.

- A student who becomes ill at school will be isolated and provided with a medical mask to wear until such time as they are picked up from school by a parent/caregiver. If a staff member needs to stay with the student, they should wear a medical grade mask and eye protection.

Sports and Extracurricular Activities

- Field trips and extracurricular activities may continue.
- Overnight trips are allowed.
- Tournaments are allowed.
- Spectators should follow the visitor guidelines.

Transportation

- School transportation returns to regular policies and practices.
- Full capacity is allowed on buses.
- Assigned seating is recommended.

Music

- Music and band programs may resume as per pre-COVID measures.
- Instruments should be cleaned on a regular basis.