



RED RIVER VALLEY SCHOOL DIVISION DIVISION SCOLAIRE VALLÉE de la RIVIÈRE-ROUGE

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Date: August 13, 2020

Time: 3:00 p.m.

To: RRVSD Community
From: Brad Curtis, Superintendent & CEO
Re: COVID-19 UPDATE #15

All resources and further updates for the RRVSD Community will be posted on our website: www.rrvsd.ca

We are writing to update you about the Government of Manitoba's announcement for September 2020 school re-opening. Our staff have been busy working to make appropriate plans to allow the safe return of students in response to this next phase. The Chief Provincial Public Health Officer has provided direction and guidelines in order to have students return safely to school. We want to assure everyone that the Red River Valley School Division is making plans based upon the recommendations from Manitoba Health. Our divisional and school staff are planning for the return of students to the school with the priority remaining the safety and well-being of staff and students. We deeply appreciate the patience, co-operation and support that families have provided as we navigate these changing conditions.

1. K – 8 Students

- a. All K – 8 students will be able to attend school on a daily basis beginning September 8th. Schools will notify families of their child's schedule before school starts.
- b. Classroom configurations and bus seating plans will be configured to comply with Manitoba Health's current guidelines.
- c. Entrances and exits to and from school will be communicated clearly to students. School staff will manage student traffic in the school.
- d. Parents and caregivers will be expected to screen their children before boarding the bus or dropping off at school. Students and staff who are experiencing any symptoms are expected to stay home.
- e. There will be enhanced cleaning protocols in all of our schools and students and staff are expected to cooperate and follow health guidelines appropriately.

2. High School Students

- a. All students with exceptional needs will be able to attend school up to five days per week and their first day is September 8th.
- b. Our high school teams are currently developing plans where all high school students will attend school every second day and will work with students to develop "blended learning" plans which is a combination of in-class and remote learning. Your son/daughter's individual schedule will be provided to you before school starts.
- c. September 8th will be the first day of in-class learning for grade 9 and 10 students. The first day of in-class learning for grade 11 and 12 students will be September 9th.
- d. Entry and exits to school will be communicated clearly to students. School staff will manage student traffic in the school.
- e. Each school will have designated areas for student cohorts. Physical distancing and co-operation is required for the safe return of students to the school.
- f. Enhanced cleaning protocols will be implemented daily with any shared spaces cleaned prior to different cohorts using shared spaces.

That each of us will be life long learners

- g. High School students will need to maintain 2 meters social distancing outside of their cohort and will not be allowed to congregate in large close groups.

Note: Cohorts involve keeping groups of students (e.g. grades) together and avoiding interactions with other groups. The maximum number of students in a cohort is 75 and students can belong to more than one cohort. High school students will be placed in cohorts according to grades and programs. Cohorts are used for transportation, lunch hour and other allotted times.

3. Transportation:

We recognize that transportation is a critical component of having students arrive safely and regularly to school and are very proud of the service we have been able to provide for our families. To meet the provincial health guidelines for the safe transportation of students, we have to temporarily change the level of service we have provided in the past. The following is a summary of the changes:

- a. For the short term, parents are encouraged to transport their own children if at all possible.
- b. All students residing within 1.6 km from the school will not be provided bus transportation. These families will be contacted directly by the transportation department.
- c. All students in Grades 5-12, and bus drivers, will be required to wear non-medical masks on the school buses. Masks should be put on before loading and taken off after off-loading. The province will provide masks for distribution to students and staff if they do not have personal PPE.
- d. Some school buses will be “double-routed” meaning that they will drop off students at the school and then go back out to pick up another cohort of students.
- e. All school buses will be cleaned in between bus cohorts and at the end of the day.
- f. Bus arrival/departure times will be staggered at the school as much as possible to avoid student congestion.
- g. Specific information regarding transportation (ie seating plan, pickup times) will be communicated prior to the start of the school year.

Note: Transportation services could be disrupted due to changing conditions

4. School Access:

- a. Visitor access to schools will be minimized to the greatest extent possible.
- b. Community use of schools is suspended.
- c. Anyone entering the school (staff, students, visitors), must adhere to self-screening, physical distancing and recommended hygiene practices.
- d. All school doors will be locked to control access. Schools are required to keep a record of all people entering the building.

Schools will be providing families with information regarding instructions that are site specific prior to students attending school in September. The division is providing an increase in custodial staff and classroom supports to maintain cohorts. The school division will be following Public Health’s guidance for the use of PPE (personal protective equipment such as masks, shields, gloves).

More information regarding educational programming will be forthcoming from your respective schools. We will continue to update our website and share information as it becomes available.