



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

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Date: May 29, 2020
Time: 2:00 p.m.

To: RRVSD Community
From: Brad Curtis, Superintendent & CEO
Re: COVID-19 UPDATE #12

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

Manitoba introduced steps on May 21st to continue to safely restore services by announcing their Phase 2 draft plan. Attached to this update you will find a copy of:

**Manitoba Education - Limited Use of Schools
During Phase Two of Restoring Safe Services
May 27, 2020**

Following the Manitoba Education-Limited Use of Schools document, Red River Valley School Division will be proceeding in the following manner for the month of June 2020. Please be assured that our plans will continue to prioritize the safety and well-being of our students and staff.

Student academic programming and delivery will continue to be done remotely using digital media and print materials. The final date for new learning material has been set as June 12, 2020.

Each student/family will be invited to attend school at least once between the dates of June 1st to the 25th. These appointments will be arranged by schools and will support such things as one-on-one learning, assessment and transition planning for the 2020-2021 school year.

Participation in these appointments from families is optional. All assessments, re-teaching and transition meetings will be completed at the very latest June 25th.

Year-end celebrations such as Graduation Convocations, Grade 8 Farewells and Kindergarten Celebrations may be held as long as public health protocols are in place. Please keep in contact with your schools for more information regarding these possible events.

As we approach the last month of this very different and challenging school year, I would like to say thanks to our students, staff and parents. Let's continue to work together in June so that we are ready for the next school year.

That each of us will be life long learners

Manitoba Education - Limited Use of Schools During Phase Two of Restoring Safe Services May 27, 2020

Some school divisions have requested flexibility to use their school facilities. These requests led to the development of the Limited Use of School Facilities guidelines and the subsequent town hall with Dr. Roussin on May 14, 2020.

On May 27, 2020 Phase Two of *Restoring Safe Services: Manitoba's Pandemic and Economic Roadmap for Recovery* was released. In response to Public Health advice, this plan includes re-opening school facilities for limited use, where physical distancing and public health orders can be followed.

Key Messages to School Divisions re: Phase 2

- The safety of students, teachers, school staff and families remains paramount, which is why we continue to rely on the advice provided by public health officials.
- Classroom learning will remain suspended for the remainder of the school year. However, schools are now open for staff and specific programs. Students will be able to meet with teachers for the purpose of assessment and planning for the resumption of classes in September. Previously defined learning expectations and guiding principles will continue.
- Remote learning continues but will wind down throughout June as student assessment and transition planning begins. Schools and school divisions will have discretion around the timing of this shift.
- School divisions and schools will develop re-entry plans that meet public health requirements. It is important that schools are prepared prior to opening for limited use. Some schools may be ready to re-open on a limited basis starting June 1, 2020.
- Since schools will be open on a limited basis as early as June 1, 2020, school divisions are making plans for teachers and some other staff to return to schools, recognizing workplace accommodations and adjustments may be needed.
- While working from home has been encouraged where possible, many employees will be returning to the workplace as a result of changes in Phase 2. Public Health continues to encourage employers to take steps to help staff and visitors to stay safe in workplaces, including schools. The re-entry into schools will proceed with caution as we work to build confidence of students, staff and the public.
- Consultations regarding the 2020/21 year are underway with a decision expected shortly.

Public Health Requirements

- At this time, the limits on gatherings of 25 people indoors and 50 people outdoors should not be exceeded. However, multiple groups of 25 can operate within a school setting provided that these groups can be segregated to prevent contact throughout the day with other groups through the use of separate exits, staggered drop-off schedules, and by monitoring access to the facility to avoid congestion.
- The requirement is that the number of staff/students in each room must also not exceed the ability to maintain the 2 meter distancing.

That each of us will be life long learners

- Increased frequency of cleaning and sanitation, particularly high touch surfaces and common/shared areas will be required. Manitoba Education will continue to work with school divisions if there are challenges in accessing cleaning supplies.

Limited Use of School Facilities in June

- Use of schools should be for the purpose of student assessments, clinical supports, transition planning and specific programming as outlined in Limited Use of School Facilities. https://www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/covid/support/limited_use_school.html
- Students should be invited to schools during scheduled times at least once in June after re-entry plans have been finalized, and provided that operational and public health requirements can be met. Schools may invite some students for additional school visits and special programs as referenced in the guidelines.
- Participating in any in-person activities will be optional for student and families. Planning and assessment may be done remotely or in person depending on local needs and individual considerations.
- Schools will need to exercise caution and consider the total number of students and staff in the building at any given time to avoid unintended congestion and/or gatherings beyond the public health recommendations.
- Student transportation is not a requirement in this plan, however, school divisions may assess reinstating bus routes based on local needs.
- Sports, band and other extra curricular activities can resume in school settings, and will need to follow physical distancing and other public health guidelines for those activities. Choirs or musical theatre activities will not be allowed, due to a higher risk of transmission through singing as compared to speaking.