



“Preparing Today’s Learner for Tomorrow”

October 23, 2020

Dear Interlake School Division Families,

As of Monday, October 26, 2020, schools in the Winnipeg Metro Region will be operating in the Restricted Level (Orange) of [Manitoba’s Pandemic Response System](#). All schools in the Interlake School Division, regardless of the community or municipality in which they are located, will adapt school-based plans and processes to align with provincial measures for the duration of the Restricted Level (Orange).

While minimal transmission is occurring in schools at this point, additional public health measures are critical to ensure schools respond to the current risks and conditions given rising community transmission. The list below indicates key components of ISD’s Restricted Level (Orange) response.

- Kindergarten – Grade 8 students will continue in-class learning as currently scheduled.
- Grade 9 – Grade 12 students will continue blended learning as currently scheduled.
- Schools will remove excess furniture from classrooms to create additional space and will utilize other available spaces within the school for in-class learning.
- Teachers and staff who move across cohorts of students are required to wear medical-grade masks.
- School bus transportation will continue as currently scheduled and parents are strongly encouraged to transport their child(ren) if they are able.

Though the cohort model currently in place in all ISD schools will continue and is supported by Manitoba Education, the province has asked schools to ensure two metres of physical distancing *to the greatest extent possible*. It is important for us to share with families that in order for ISD schools to achieve two metres of physical distancing in all spaces, the following measures would need to be implemented:

- Grade 9-12 students would need to transition to full-time remote learning to create additional physical space for Kindergarten – Grade 8 in-class learning; *and/or*,
- A significant portion of Kindergarten – Grade 8 students and staff would need to be relocated to alternate school buildings within or beyond their local community; *and/or*,
- A significant portion of Kindergarten – Grade 8 students and staff would need to transition to temporary remote learning to create additional physical space for Kindergarten – Grade 8 in-class learning.

For the duration of the Restricted Level (Orange), ISD will not pursue the first two bulleted items in the list above due to the significant upheaval it would cause for students, schools, and families where clear

evidence exists that ISD schools are safe spaces. While we remain hopeful that it will not be the case, ISD will be forced to enact additional measures as described above in the event two metres of physical distancing between students becomes a provincial requirement.

Divisional staff will consult with Principals and with families during the week of October 26-30 to determine whether or not a temporary remote learning option will be implemented for K-8 students. This voluntary option may support families who have concerns about student safety during in-class learning and may also help to create additional space in schools, classrooms, and on school buses. In the event that temporary remote learning is offered to K-8 students for the duration of the Restricted Level (Orange), programming will begin during the week of November 2-6. ISD families can expect further correspondence on this topic via email early next week.

Manitoba Education and public health officials will continue to monitor the situation closely and will advise when the Pandemic Response System level returns to Caution Level (Yellow). Provincial updates are available on Manitoba Education's [Restoring Safe Schools](#) website. ISD will continue to follow all public health guidelines and adapt our plans as necessary in response to the health of our communities and our province. Please visit [ISD's website](#) regularly for local updates.

Thank you for your continued support, patience, and trust as we plan for safe teaching and learning in the Interlake School Division.

Sincerely,

Margaret Ward

Margaret Ward
ISD Superintendent/CEO