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Superintendent/CEO



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“Preparing Today’s Learner for Tomorrow”

November 13, 2020

Dear Interlake School Division Families,

As of Friday, November 13, 2020, all ISD schools continue to operate in the Restricted Level (Orange) of [Manitoba’s Pandemic Response System](#). Guidance and direction from the province continue to evolve in response to public health data and the ISD team continues to plan and prepare for all potential scenarios. Though we sincerely hope to soon return to the Caution Level (Yellow), we also need to be prepared for the possibility of one or more of ISD’s schools being placed in the Critical Level (Red).

This letter intends to share information about ISD’s planning for the potential of a Critical (Red) response and to gather information from families with members who are classified as critical service workers (CSW). Manitoba’s Pandemic Response System states that if schools or school divisions are placed in a Critical (Red) response, the following will apply:

- School(s) will be closed to students, with the exception of Kindergarten to Grade 6 students who are children of CSWs who cannot make alternative care arrangements.
- School(s) will accommodate children over age 12 if their parent is a CSW and the child has a disability that precludes them from being able to stay at home independently.
- Students from Kindergarten to Grade 12 will participate in remote learning, either from within the school (for K-6 children of CSWs) or from home (for K-6 children of non-CSWs and for all Grade 7-12 students).
- School(s) will not be responsible for student transportation or supervision of students outside of regular school hours.
 - Note: In rural areas, school divisions will use their discretion to provide bus transportation to K-6 children of CSWs who do not have alternative means of transportation, provided 2m of distancing between passengers on the bus.

To help us prepare for the potential of a Critical (Red) response in one or more of ISD's schools, we require information from ISD families to determine the volume and need of critical service workers. We ask that each family please [click here](#) to provide information as requested by **Thursday, November 19**. For those families unable to provide the information online, we ask that you please contact your child's school by phone to provide the information directly to the office staff. All information gathered is confidential and for internal planning purposes only.

More information from government about CSWs is attached to this letter in *Appendix A: Critical Service Workers (CSW) Definition*. Thank you for your ongoing support, patience, and trust as we plan for teaching and learning in the Interlake School Division.

Sincerely,

Margaret Ward

Margaret Ward
ISD Superintendent/CEO

Appendix A: Critical Service Workers (CSW) Definition

In a Critical (Red) response level, schools and school divisions will work to accommodate Kindergarten to Grade 6 children of CSWs who cannot make alternative care arrangements. Public health guidelines and physical space available will affect the number of children of CSWs that a school can safely manage.

It is understood that schools/school divisions may not have the space required to accommodate all Kindergarten to Grade 6 children of CSWs while maintaining two metres of physical distancing. Therefore, a prioritization system is needed.

Priority access will be given to health care providers. Other CSWs will be eligible and prioritized by schools/school divisions as follows:

➤ ***Tier One:***

- Health/Health Services
- Kindergarten - Grade 12 Education Providers (teachers, administrators, and support staff)
- Child Care Workers
- Law Enforcement
- Corrections Workers
- Fire and Paramedic First Responders
- Direct Social Services and Child Protection Workers

➤ ***Tier Two:***

Additional Critical Service Providers who provide essential services to Manitobans such as:

- front-line natural resource workers
- gas station attendants
- grocery store staff
- hospital/clinic support staff
- others listed in the [*Essential Services Act*](#)

Note: Schools and school divisions may also use their discretion to accommodate high-risk students in order to address serious concerns of disengagement.