

MARGARET WARD
Superintendent/CEO



AL LEIMAN
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TYLER MORAN
Assistant Superintendent

“Preparing Today’s Learner for Tomorrow”

January 13, 2022

Dear Interlake School Division Families,

K-12 students in Manitoba will return to in-class learning on Monday, January 17. Upon return, schools will operate in the [Restricted Level \(Orange\)](#) of Manitoba’s Pandemic Response System. The purpose of this letter is to provide families with important information on what to expect next week.

Programming for students will look different at each ISD school based on the grades and the communities they serve. Schools are currently finalizing their plans and will be reaching out to families to share school-specific information as needed. It is necessary for us to clearly communicate that ISD schools will meet the Province’s guidelines for in-class learning to the greatest extent possible based on the facilities, resources, and staffing capacity available.

With divisional and school-based staff focused on supporting the return to in-class learning, continuation of the remote learning offered by ISD schools during the week of January 10-14 will not be possible. Families interested in pursuing continued remote learning for their child beyond January 14 are invited to contact ISD’s Program Support Staff, Mr. John Bock, directly via email (jbock@isd21.mb.ca) for more information about the [Manitoba Remote Learning Support Centre](#), which is the provincial option available for K-8 remote learning.

A brief Question & Answer document is attached to this letter to share common language and messaging in response to the most frequent inquiries we are currently receiving about the return to in-class learning.

Further information about Manitoba Education’s COVID-19 Education plan can be found online within their [Restoring Safe Schools](#) resource. And, please feel welcome to contact your child’s school directly with specific questions as needed. We are committed to continued planning and adapting to the needs of our community. We sincerely thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'M Ward'.

Margaret Ward
ISD Superintendent/CEO

Return to In-Class Learning (January 17, 2022): Question & Answer Document

Note: This set of questions and answers is not intended to be exhaustive, rather it aims to provide common language in response to frequent inquiries.

1. Will all K-12 students be learning in-class full-time? And, will 2m of physical distancing be in place?

Answer: Yes, all K-12 students will return to full-time in-class learning as of January 17. And, no, it will not be possible to guarantee 2m of physical distancing at all times with all students returning to full-time in-class learning. Each school will pursue this guideline to the greatest extent possible.

2. Will gymnasiums, libraries, and common areas be transformed into temporary classrooms again?

Answer: Not necessarily. Though moving a classroom into a gymnasium, for example, may provide additional learning space for 1 or 2 classes within a school, it also eliminates access to an important programming area that impacts all classes within a school. Each school will be making decisions on the usage of their space with the best interest of all students in mind.

3. Can students continue with remote learning rather than returning to in-class learning?

Answer: Yes, but only for K-8 students. Though ISD does not have the staffing capacity to offer a divisional or school-based remote learning option beyond January 14, the [Manitoba Remote Learning Support Centre](#) is the provincial remote learning option for K-8 students and is open for enrollment. For further information, please contact ISD's Program Support Staff, Mr. John Bock, directly via email (jbock@isd21.mb.ca) for more information.

4. Has mask-guidance changed for students in schools?

Answer: Only slightly. In addition to all existing mask-guidance for students remaining in place, the following two items have been added: Where possible, focus should be on wearing a mask that fits the face well and has at least three layers. And, masks must now be worn at all times in the gymnasium during participation in athletic activity. Masks remain available at all ISD schools for students as needed. ISD will continue to comply with and adapt to provincial [mask guidance](#) for Manitobans.

5. How will families be notified of positive cases of COVID-19 within schools?

Answer: Significant change to the process for notification of cases in schools was announced by Government this afternoon. ISD Staff will gather necessary information on the changes in the coming days and will be in compliance upon the return to in-class learning on January 17. Additional information will be shared with families as soon as it is publicly available.

6. How is ISD addressing recommendations from the Province about ventilation in schools?

Answer: ISD has worked closely with divisional and industry-based ventilation professionals to improve the infrastructure and practices in ISD buildings throughout the last two school years. We will continue to monitor and evaluate ventilation in ISD buildings and commit to enhancing our infrastructure as funding and capacity allows.

7. How will ISD respond to projected staffing shortages linked to illness and self-isolation?

Answer: ISD has been actively recruiting and hiring staff in all employee groups throughout the current school year. Closure of individual schools or cancellation of classes at a particular grade level are last resort responses and will only occur if/when the staffing pool is entirely depleted. In these cases, families will be contacted directly and provided with as much advance notice as possible to make alternative arrangements.