
COVID-19 INFORMATION FOR SCHOOLS

Public Health Data and Information – Schools

At this time, 20 per cent of overall COVID-19 cases are in school-aged children. Officials note some of these individuals may not have caught the virus in school or spread it to others in schools because they were self-isolating at home. However, as of May 6, there were 574 cases linked to schools within last 14 days.

Increased cases have been seen in younger students in the third wave. This is different from the data from the second wave, when cases were seen in older students and adults.

The number of schools with one or more cases has been increasing. Last week, there were 176 schools with one or more cases. This week, there are 208 schools with one or more cases. Currently, the majority of affected schools are in Winnipeg (154 of 208 schools or 74 per cent).

As of noon on May 7, 19 schools in Manitoba were in full remote learning, including:

- two in the Interlake-Eastern health region;
- one in the Northern health region;
- three in the Prairie Mountain Health region;
- one in the Southern Health–Santé Sud health region; and
- 12 in the Winnipeg health region.

In addition, 41 groups of classrooms or cohorts were isolating.

Since last fall, public health officials and school divisions have followed guidance to inform the decision to move a school to remote learning. This includes:

- checking if new cases have a history of possible exposures outside the school setting;
- reviewing if a school has new cases in two or more cohorts and if those cases are not from the same household; and
- confirming if there are new cases outside of the cohorts currently in isolation.

In addition, school officials can shift to school-wide remote learning for one to two days to allow time for further consultation with public health officials and Manitoba Education to determine if a longer period of remote learning is required, unless directed otherwise from public health.

Resources for Schools

Schools will accommodate the needs of children and families for students of critical service workers. For more detailed information, please refer to Manitoba Education COVID-19 Circular 004 at https://www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/covid/docs/covidcircoc272020_revised.pdf and Guidance for Critical (Red) Response Level for Manitoba Schools at https://manitoba.ca/asset_library/en/covid/response-management-K-12-critical.pdf.

Schools should strive to achieve the remote learning standards to the greatest extent possible. However, it is recognized that real-time learning may not be possible, especially for kindergarten to Grade 6 students, during this period of temporary remote learning. For remote learning programming requirements, please refer to www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/covid/docs/remote_learn_standards.pdf.

The Manitoba Remote Learning Support Centre works with schools and school divisions to enhance and further develop remote learning resources and supports. The Remote Learning Support Team will support teachers delivering remote learning. The Remote Learning Online Portal (www.mbremotelearning.ca) houses learning supports and resources teachers can use to support remote learning.

Schools must ensure two metres of physical distancing to the greatest extent possible. Where physical distancing is not possible, students must remain within cohorts. Manitoba Education and public health officials continue to monitor the situation closely and will advise if additional measures are warranted.

Child Care Resources

The Manitoba Child Care Search tool connects Manitoba families directly with licensed child care facilities. Using this tool, families can search for facilities that meet their needs based on location, hours and availability. As of April 23, there were more than 4,000 vacancies across the province. For more information, visit: <https://eswchildcare.ca/>.