



# Evergreen School Division

Box 1200 • Gimli, Manitoba • R0C 1B0 • Ph. (204) 642-6260 • Fax (204) 642-7273 • [www.esd.ca](http://www.esd.ca)

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**November 15, 2020**

Dear Parents /Caregivers:

Evergreen School Division continues to function in restricted (orange) despite the provincial pandemic response level change to critical (red) for businesses and other services. Further, we continue to refine our pandemic planning based on the updated guidance from Manitoba Education. As Manitobans are well aware, new information continues to influence and change the actions of health care, businesses and other services. Similarly, schools across the province continue to adapt to evolving provincial direction.

- 1. Communities in RED:** As a result of the new restrictions, public health has mandated closure of all play structures to members of the public. All play structures will only be accessible to students during the day. High school students who have been permitted to leave school at lunch may continue to do so and will be encouraged to continue to practice public health measures during this time. Please help us by encouraging your children to follow public health measures at all times.
- 2. Illness:** Daily self-screening is required before attending school. Also, please inform us if your child is ill, and contact us as soon as possible if your child tests positive for COVID19. As per public health orders, if any member or your household tests positive, please isolate and keep your children home until cleared by public health.
- 3. Tri-conferences:** This week tri-conferences (teachers, student and parent/caregiver conversations about learning) are scheduled to occur in the evening on Wednesday, November 18<sup>th</sup> and Thursday, November 19<sup>th</sup> and on the morning of November 20<sup>th</sup>. Please note that teachers may also choose to schedule these conferences on other days this week and the next, as required. Conferences will occur electronically via MS Teams or, if you prefer, over the telephone. Schools will be in touch with you regarding scheduling a time.
- 4. No school days:** Manitoba Education has announced that Divisions are to schedule two days for staff learning as continued preparation for evolving pandemic-related needs. These days will be scheduled for November 27 and December 4<sup>th</sup>. We apologize for the inconvenience this will cause for families to have three successive Fridays (Nov 20<sup>th</sup> tri-conferences and Nov 27<sup>th</sup> and Dec 4<sup>th</sup> for staff learning/meetings) with no school.
- 5. Learning from home:** You will have already received a request for information from your child's school regarding your access to high speed internet and a device (laptop or iPad). If you have not received this or have not yet replied to the request, please check in with the school. Please note that there are limited devices available, so when the time comes, please request a device from the school only if you do not have access to one.
- 6. Physical Distancing:** It is recognized that strict physical distancing at all times—particularly with young children - is not practical in the school setting. This is why it is so important that anyone showing symptoms needs to stay home, get tested and cleared before returning to school.
- 7. Critical Service Workers:** We ask parents to let us know if they are critical service workers who cannot make alternative arrangements for childcare, and will therefore need their children (k-6) to continue to attend school when schools are designated 'red' and remote learning is in place for all students. If you believe you may be a critical service worker, please respond to the survey, which you will receive tomorrow, before November 20, 2020. Further information will follow in a separate email.



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8. **Student Behaviour:** Although most students are largely compliant with expectations regarding masks, physical distancing, handwashing and other public health related school rules, it is increasingly important that these rules be followed faithfully. We will not tolerate misbehaviour that jeopardizes the health of others and will respond by applying the consequences referenced in the student code of conduct. Please emphasize with your child the importance of keeping others safe by complying with the rules and taking direction from adults.
  
9. **Bus Transportation:** Our buses continue to run at reduced capacity at this time. However, it is foreseeable that some routes will need to be cancelled for short periods of time due to a shortage of substitute bus drivers. We will try to give you ample notice, but it is possible that notification may occur early in the morning based on last minute circumstances. Therefore, we urge parents to have an alternate transportation plan for their children. Further, in the circumstance that the Division is moved to 'red' or 'critical' in the pandemic response system, our transportation system will be shut down entirely, at least for a time.
  
10. **COVID19 information:** Please contact your child's school if you would like to receive text messages from the Division. Also, please note that Division communication with families is posted on our website at <https://www.esd.ca/Pages/COVID-19-Information.aspx#/=> You may also follow us on Twitter at @evergreen\_sd

Much is being said about the impact of the pandemic on the well-being of our students, staff and community as a whole. There are moments when any of us might feel overwhelmed and anxious; yet, we have many bright spots to celebrate. Our students continue to learn in the company of their peers, with the guidance and support of caring and dedicated staff.

Our ability to adapt to these uncertain times is improved by the encouragement we receive from one another. Evergreen staff and students have benefitted from the flexibility and support provided by parents, caregivers and community. As times become more challenging, this will matter even more. We'll be there for your children. Thanks for being there for us.

Sincerely,

Roza Gray  
Superintendent & CEO