



Evergreen School Division

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

February 1, 2021

Dear Evergreen Families,

Although our provincial government continues to respond to the number of COVID-19 cases in Manitoba with a gradual loosening of restrictions, our schools continue to operate in pandemic level Restricted (orange) with no change expected.

Restricted Level (Orange)

The restrictions at our present level (orange) include classroom configurations with 2 metres of physical distancing to the greatest extent possible (including some classes divided across two classrooms). As per requirements, we continue to prohibit team sports, singing and instrument use. We reduce the number of contacts with whom students interact, wear masks, use hand sanitizer frequently during the day and encourage adherence to these public health measures outside the school day. It is likely that these limitations will continue for the remainder of the school year, as long as schools remain in pandemic level restricted (orange).

Critical Level (Red)

Although we are optimistic for steady improvement in the fight against the pandemic, we continue to refine our planning for readiness should it be necessary for our schools to move to pandemic level Critical (red). When schools are moved to the red level, schools are closed and students are expected to learn from home. However, childcare is provided in school for the children of critical service workers (Kindergarten to grade 6) who cannot make other childcare arrangements. While in school, these children will receive the same remote learning as their counterparts at home. Students with special needs will receive individualized plans for support during this time.

In the fall we polled parents to see how many critical service workers expected to need to send their K-6 children to school for childcare in pandemic level red (when community spread is not contained). Based on the information parents submitted, it is expected that only the parents working in Tier 1 (health services, early child care, K-12 education, law enforcement, corrections, first responders, direct social services and protection workers) will be able to be accommodated for child care in school.

Additional Considerations

Relative to other locations in the province, the number of cases of the virus in our region has remained low. This is due to the excellent job of parents, staff and students in following public health orders.



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We are told it is critical to stay home when you are sick. Further, early communication with the school regarding positive test results has been essential to responding appropriately. We have recently had an additional case reported to us in a timely manner that was related to our school community, but thankfully had no impact on our students, thanks to the diligence of our families and staff.

As a staff, we understand that it is tiring to be continually asked to be flexible. We have all been asked to change the way we live our lives, and this is especially challenging as the pandemic continues to affect our lives for longer than many anticipated. Please know that your perseverance and continued diligence in following public health measures and adhering to 'the fundamentals' is helping students, staff and communities to stay well. We are grateful for your continued grace and support.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Roza Gray
Superintendent
Evergreen School Division