

ÉCOLE RIVER HEIGHTS SCHOOL

Re-opening Plan 2020

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Plans

Government and Divisional Standards

ÉCOLE RIVER HEIGHTS SCHOOL has developed a comprehensive plan that meets the most current expectations of Manitoba Health, Manitoba Education, and the Winnipeg School Division. We recognize that expectations may change and we are committed to revising the plan as necessary for the safety of all concerned.

For more information on these guidelines, please visit [Restoring Safe Schools: August 13 - A Guide for Parents, Caregivers and Students \(pdf\)](#)

The plan is a multi-layered approach to keeping students, staff and their families safe. It involves screening, physical distancing, handwashing, limiting non-cohort student contact,



and the mandatory wearing of masks where physical distancing of 2 metres is not possible.

Class & Cohort Size and Protocols (Masks, Home Base, Proceed When Clear)

Our classes have been set-up to provide adequate social distance for the cohort model. In the cohort model, student contact is limited to students within the cohort. Class sizes are limited to 24. During the month of August all additional furniture was removed from classes to maximize student space. For example, all teacher desks and filing cabinets have been removed from the classroom space. This allows for a 1 metre distance between students.

Protocols:

We require **all students and staff to wear a non-medical mask** while in shared spaces, unless a physical distance of 2m is being maintained.

Homeroom/ Homebase Model - All students are assigned to a homeroom that will be their homebase for the day. Following the Middle School model, they will have a team of teachers that will work with them during the day (e.g. one teacher for Math and Science, one teacher for ELA and Social Studies etc.). The teachers will work out of the homebase classroom. This way hallway congestion and co-mingling of student cohorts is eliminated.

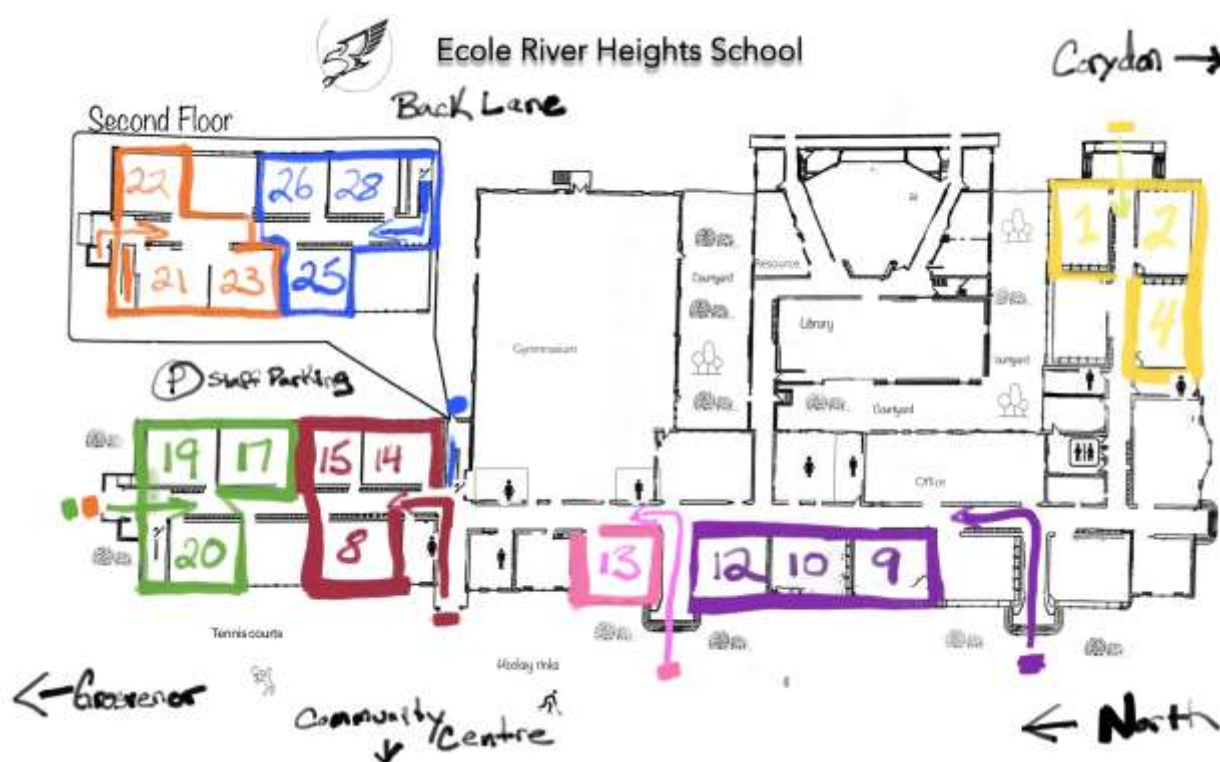
Does that mean my child will be in the same room all day? No, your child will have Physical Education outside or, to a limited degree in the gymnasium. Using the **Proceed When Clear** protocol (see below), teachers will also take their students to work at other locations when possible such as outside in the courtyard or in the field.

We will follow a **Proceed When Clear** protocol. This allows teachers to move their students to an alternative location such as the courtyard or playing fields. The teacher will accompany the class and will only proceed when hallways or exits/entrances are clear. The Proceed When Clear protocol will also be used by students when they leave the room to go to the washroom.

Entry and Exit Plan

Before coming to school, parents must pre-screen their child/children to ensure they are not exhibiting symptoms of Covid 19 (cough, shortness of breath, sore throat, runny nose etc.) using the [pre-screening tool](#) (click for the tool).

Cohorts of students have been assigned to use a specific entry and exit point (refer to map below) to reduce student cohort contact or co-mingling in the hallways.



Students should arrive at school between 8:45-8:55 am, **not before**, and can be dropped off using the Community Centre parking loop. Once at school, students will **enter at their assigned door for additional screening** and proceed directly to their homeroom class if they are not displaying or experiencing symptoms. Students are reminded to maintain appropriate physical distance from others outside and in the hallway.

“Did you complete the self-screening online”

Your child will be asked this question as part of the daily screening at school

Lockers will not be used, as per guidelines, to avoid congestion in the hallways and potential student-cohort co-mingling. Students will need to bring and keep their belongings/backpacks in the classroom.

If a student arrives late, they must enter through the main door facing the Community Centre (students should be dropped off using the Community Centre parking loop). Late

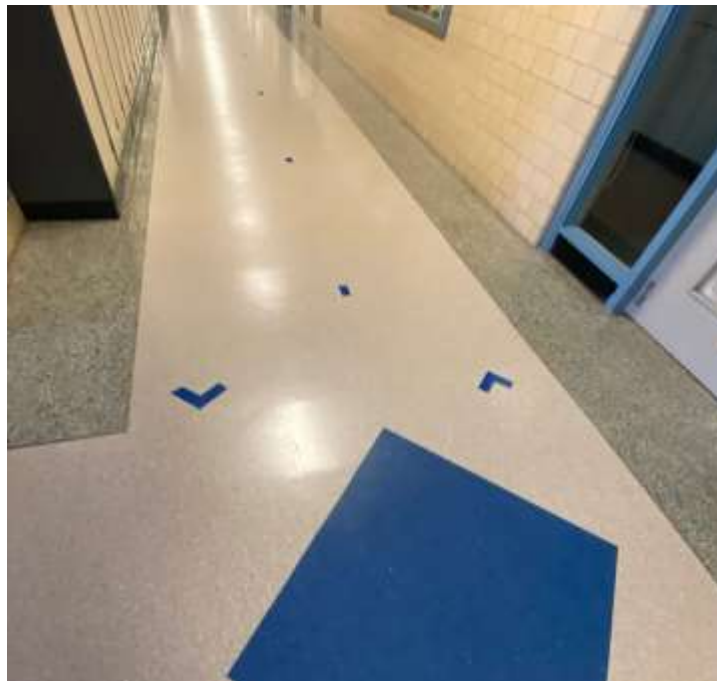
students must report to the office for screening; respecting all signage regarding office capacity and physical distancing.

Dismissal at the end of the day will follow the **Proceed When Clear protocol** where teachers will dismiss their classes as soon as the hallways are clear and appropriate distances can be maintained. Parents/ Caregivers are to remain outside of the building and can meet their child/children at the designated entry/exit if needed.

If your child requires an early dismissal for an appointment, please phone the office ahead of time to make arrangements. Please wait outside the building at the designated pick-up time.

Travel in the School and Signage

Signage - all hallways are divided and have directional arrows. Although cohorts will wait until hallways are clear, if passing is unavoidable, students and staff must respect directional arrows and allow social distance in the hallway. Additional signage and floor markings have been added throughout the school to assist with physical distancing requirements and traffic flow.



Hallways are marked with direction arrows to help maintain social distancing.



Proceed When Clear, see [above](#).

Washrooms will be assigned to specific cohorts of students. The number of students permitted to leave the classroom will be limited and monitored by the supervising teacher.

Grade 8 Practical Arts

Grade 8 students take Practical Arts (Shops) ~~at Kelvin High School~~ with specialist teachers from Kelvin High School, one afternoon in the 6-day cycle. Specifically, on days 2, 4, or 6, three homerooms will have Practical Arts. This year Practical Arts classes **will take place in the homeroom at École River Heights School**.

Physical Education

Phys. Ed. classes will occur outside as much as possible and as weather allows. Students must come prepared and dressed appropriately for PE and for the weather that day. Changing for PE will not occur at this time. As water fountains (except for the bottle-filling station) are not in use at this time, students should have a water bottle.

Band/Dance/Musical Theatre

Band, Dance and Musical Theatre options will **not** operate in the same way as previous years due to potential mixing of cohorts and other safety concerns. Our wonderful team of teachers will be assigned to homerooms and are creatively planning for this time in the schedule in order to follow guidelines and protocols.


Lunch Time

Students who must stay for lunch will eat in their classroom cohorts and be supervised by staff. Microwaves are not provided for student use and sharing of food or drinks is not allowed. The canteen will not be operating this year.

Students who leave during the lunch hour must exit the building for the entire lunch period. Students must exit and enter through their assigned door, maintain appropriate physical distance from others and sanitize their hands upon re-entry.

Cleaning and Disinfecting

The school is in wonderful shape thanks to our custodial team. There is/will continue to be an enhanced cleaning schedule in place during the school day that includes frequent



cleaning of door knobs, faucet handles, doorway areas and washrooms. Disinfecting protocols for areas in use will be followed by evening custodians.

In addition to this, regular hand hygiene (hand washing or sanitizing) will be conducted throughout the day as per guidelines. All classrooms will have hand sanitizer and cleaning supplies available.

Maintaining Mental Health


The realities of COVID-19 have been particularly hard on children. We will be actively supporting our students throughout the course of the year with their mental health and well-being in mind:

- During the start of the school year, staff will spend time with our clinicians (social worker and psychologist) to discuss strategies that will help our children cope with the changes that they have experienced at school and at home.
- Children will be given opportunities to talk about how they are feeling; ongoing monitoring will occur (follow-up with families will happen if concerns arise).
- All classroom teachers and the School Counsellor will continue to utilize social-emotional programming.
- Staff will have access to resources and training to support overall well-being for themselves and their students.
- The WSD's *Clinical Support Services* will continue to support staff and students.

What happens if a child falls ill at school?

Should a child develop symptoms at school they must go home immediately for the safety of others. Please expect the following:

- The ill child will be removed from their classroom, given a mask and will be isolated in a separate room while monitored by a staff member.
- The parent will be contacted to pick up their child immediately. Please ensure your contact numbers have been updated if any changes have occurred since registration.
- Once the parent/designate arrives, they will phone the school at 204.488.1137 and a staff member will bring the child outside.
- Parents will update the school about the child's condition (if Health Links was contacted, the child was taken in for testing, etc.).

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- Students must remain at home until they can pass the [screening tool](#) and have no symptoms.
 - Should a case of COVID-19 be found within the school community, Manitoba Health will be contacted immediately and all procedures/follow-up will be done as directed by Manitoba Health.

Parent Resources

The following resources may be helpful to you in your own planning and preparing children for the fall return:

- [How to Ease Back-to-school Stress](#) (as seen in the Winnipeg Free Press on Saturday, August 22nd)
- [WSD Pandemic Planning](#)
- [WSD Pandemic Planning Framework](#) (updated: August 17, 2020)
- [Return to School Information for Parents/Guardians](#)
- [Parent/Guardian FAQs](#)
- [Restoring Safe Schools](#)
- [At Home Screening Tool](#)
- [Contact one of our Amazing Staff](#)
- Health Links (204-788-8200 or toll-free 1-888-315-9257)

