



Machray School

Mr. Daniel Braga, Principal
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Dear Parents/Guardians:

We're looking forward to welcoming back our students for in-person learning on Monday, January 17. During the past week, while teachers and students have continued with remote learning, our school staff has also reviewed our COVID-19 protocols to ensure that we are meeting Public Health direction for Restricted Orange on the Manitoba Pandemic Response System.

Fundamentals

When students return to school next week, we will all be focusing on the fundamentals, such as staying home if you are sick, getting tested if you have symptoms of COVID-19, washing hands frequently, and maintaining physical distancing.

In our efforts to keep our schools a safe place for learning, children must be kept at home when they are ill or have symptoms of COVID-19. There are other situations when children must be kept at home and it is very important that you complete the MB Health [COVID-19 checklist](#) with your child every day before attending school.

We have also provided an infographic called "[When to Stay Home](#)" to help our school families with a quick overview of the current Public Health directions for self-isolating.

Masks

Non-medical masks are required indoors (including school buses) for all K to 12 students. [Click here for more information on masks](#). Masks are also required during gym class, even while participating in physical education.

We urge students to wear well-fitted, three-layer masks. We will continue to provide medical-grade masks for students when required.

All school staff are now required by the province to wear medical-grade masks, which are provided at the school.

Ventilation

WSD has implemented a number of processes to review and optimize the ventilation system in our schools which includes:



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- All supply and return grills within classrooms inspected to ensure they are clean and not blocked to ensure maximum air flow.
- Ventilation ductwork and reheat coils cleaned, where required, to improve air quality and flow.
- Air filtration upgrades to MERV 13 filters, where possible, to further improve ventilation.
- All classrooms measured and balanced to maximize air flows in the school.

WSD has retained a Mechanical Consultant to review system airflows and capacities in our schools to determine if improvements in ventilation can be provided without adversely impacting equipment performance.

Notification of Positive COVID-19 Case

Manitoba Public Health has announced changes to how positive cases in schools will be communicated to the community. As a result, there will no longer be close contact notification and notification letters on individual cases.

We will be monitoring absentee levels in our school and will keep you informed weekly about our school situation. If we see an increase to COVID-19 related student absenteeism, we will alert Public Health and follow their direction on communicating next steps with our school community.

It continues to be very important for our families to let the school know if your child has tested positive for COVID-19. This will help us in monitoring and keeping Public Health informed. We are also continuing to follow our established protocol when we have been notified of a positive case, which includes extra cleaning and sanitizing, including electrostatic fogging.

Learning from Home

Based on government direction, all students are expected to return to in-class learning unless otherwise directed by public health officials. If a family is making the decision to keep their child(ren) home from in-school learning, schools will not be able to provide remote learning. Please contact us at the school to discuss further if you choose to keep your child home for an extended period of time.

If your child has tested positive for COVID-19 or has illness requiring them to remain home, teachers will prepare a learning package of independent work and activities to practice skills already taught.



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Closure due to Staffing Shortage

Over the past week, absenteeism among staff across Winnipeg School Division has remained within a normal range for this time of year. Our senior administration is preparing, however, for higher rates of absenteeism due to the impact of the COVID-19 Omicron variant.

If there is insufficient staff or substitutes to provide instruction and appropriate supervision, classes may be cancelled and in an extreme case, our school may need to temporarily close. This will be communicated to families as early as possible so that you can plan accordingly.

Transportation

Staffing shortages may also impact school transportation. If a route is cancelled, WSD Transportation will contact you by School Messenger as early as possible. Route cancellations are also posted on winnipegdsd.ca website.

We recognize the inconvenience this may mean for your family and thank you for your patience and understanding as we work together to ensure the safety of our students and staff.

Respectfully,

Dan Braga, Principal