

October 22, 2020

Additional Restrictions for Schools in the Winnipeg Metropolitan Region

The Winnipeg Metropolitan Region will move to the Critical level (red) on the #RestartMB Pandemic Response System effective Monday, Nov. 2. [Read full provincial backgrounder here](#). The following measures will be in place for schools:

No change:

- Blended learning required for Grades 9 to 12.
- Voluntary blended learning temporarily available for Kindergarten to Grade 8 ONLY where required to create additional space.
- Schools are advised to ensure as much physical distancing as possible (two metres). Cohorts or remote/blended learning is required when this is not possible.

The following measures were put in place for schools in regions under the Restricted Level (Orange), effective Oct. 26, 2020:

- Schools are advised to ensure as much physical distancing as possible (two metres). Cohorts or remote/blended learning is required when this is not possible.
- K-8 students may be offered temporary remote learning for the duration of the Restricted level (orange) to create additional space, where required.
- Blended learning (in-class and online) for grades 9 to 12 where distancing cannot be achieved will continue as per status quo.
- Schools must ensure two meters of physical distancing to the greatest extent possible, and adjust classroom space as necessary; excess furniture must be removed from classrooms to create additional space; other spaces within schools must be repurposed to accommodate more distancing (e.g., multipurpose rooms, empty rooms, shared spaces, common areas, and libraries).
- Extracurricular activities are only permitted if all learning and distancing requirements have been met. If these activities continue, established guidelines must be followed and, in the case of sports, participants should maintain distance when not active.
- Teachers and staff who move across cohorts of students, including substitute teachers, are required to wear medical masks. Medical-grade disposable masks have been issued to all schools. N95 masks are not required.
- Indoor choir and the use of wind instruments are not permitted.
- Masks for students in Grade 4 and up must be worn during physical education classes.
- All field trips must be postponed or cancelled.
- All other public health measures are still in effect.

Did you know?

The Winnipeg Regional Health Authority offers a free ride service to help people get to COVID-19 testing sites in Winnipeg.

According to the WRHA, the ride service has been available since April and provides rides for an average of 10 people per day. However, with 15 vehicles available, the ride service has the capacity to get more people to testing sites.

The vehicles contain a shield that separates the client from the driver. Clients are taken to a one of the city's five drive-thru test sites, where they wait in the vehicle until they get tested.

A ride can be booked by phoning Health Links. According to the WRHA, the service is limited to people who truly can't get to test sites on their own. Reasons may include not having access to a vehicle, a lack of financial resources, symptoms that prevent one from taking the bus, and lack of access to social supports that can help one get to testing.

Health Links is 24-hour, seven days a week telephone information service. Call 204-788-8200 or toll-free 1-888-315-9257.