

Welcoming Our Students Back

August 26, 2020

Plainview Colony School

Restoring Safe Schools – Plainview Colony School Plan 2020-21

The best place for students in September is in the classroom. Fort La Bosse’s and Plainview Colony School’s “Welcoming Our Students Back to School” Plans will support the return of students and staff to in class learning.

This past school year was a challenging time for students, families and educators. Manitobans will be living with COVID-19 for the foreseeable future. We must adapt and learn to live safely amidst the pandemic. It is in the best interests of children to be in school, so we must mitigate the effects of COVID-19 on students and families to ensure that learning and assessment continues for all.

Manitoba will return to in-class learning in September for all students while continuing to follow public health advice throughout the school year and for the duration of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Guiding Principles

- Safety, health and well-being for all students, staff and families is a priority.
- High quality learning and assessment continues for all students.
- Accessible, trauma-informed resources and supports for students, parents and caregivers.
- Consistent, reliable and appropriate connection to school learning and belonging, for every student.
- System-wide communication and collaboration will promote consistent approaches throughout the province.

The 2020-21 School Year

Schools will reopen for teachers and staff on September 2, 2020 with students returning on September 8, 2020. Manitoba will return to in-class learning for all in the fall. School divisions and independent schools have prepared re-opening plans for different public health response levels as follows:

1. In-class learning resumes for all, with near normal conditions.
2. In-class learning resumes with additional public health measures.
3. Remote learning from home, with limited use of school facilities.

Planning Considerations for All Response Levels

- **Public Health Orders and Guidance** - Current evidence indicates that staff and students can return to school while protecting individual health and minimizing risks from a public health perspective. Schools will need to follow up-to-date public health orders and guidance. Guidelines will be adjusted as necessary to reflect the latest public health information.
- **Physical Distancing Measures**—Resuming in-class learning still requires physical distancing. We have strategies in place that will allow us to control the number of students in hallways, etc, and the flow of traffic in and out of the building. We will limit nonessential visitors and will also refrain from scheduling assemblies and gatherings that exceed public health advice.
- **Cohorts** – We will have 3 cohorts within our school. The K-2 classroom, which is located downstairs, will consist of 10 students and one teacher. The Grades 3-5 classroom, which is located in the trailer, will consist of 14 students, one teacher, and one educational assistant. The Grade 6-12 classroom, which is located upstairs, will consist of 20 students, one teacher, one full time educational assistant and one part-time educational assistant.
- **Blended Learning** – Teacher-directed remote learning may be an essential component of K-12 education throughout the pandemic. Asynchronous (working independently on their own) and in-class and remote learning plans may need to be implemented on short notice. These learning packages would be sent home and returned to the school on a regular basis. Remote learning plans may need to be developed for students with underlying health conditions that prohibit them from returning to in-class learning (before broad access to a vaccine) and students in 14-day quarantine or isolation. Mechanisms to maintain ongoing contact with students who are participating in remote learning are critical to keeping students engaged. Staff will stay in contact with students and parents through phone calls, letter writing and coming to the school on an individual or group basis
- **Recovery Learning** - Plans for recovery learning has been done already based on the needs identified in the June 2020 report cards. Teachers will adapt their lessons to accommodate students just like they always do and will continue to assess student's progress so that they can fill in the learning gaps. At the end of September, students will

be re-assessed and plans will be put into place for those students who are still in need of 'recovery' learning.

- **Personal Risk Factors** - Extra cleaning will be done at various intervals and staff will be required to keep their own area sanitized. If a staff member is sick or unable to resume their duties, a replacement will be found. Arrangements will be made for both students and staff who may find themselves at a higher risk of COVID-19 due to underlying health conditions or other risk factors.
- **Supports** - Plainview Colony School will need the support of the staff, students and community to ensure that all public health orders are followed. To help students and staff to remember protocols, signage will be placed around the school.
- **Communication** - Protocols will be communicated to the staff on the first day of school, both verbally and in writing. Parents will be informed at a parent meeting prior to the first day of school and in writing. Parents and staff will be kept up to date on a regular basis of any changes that may occur during the school year.

Contact Tracing and Outbreak Management

In the event of confirmation of a case of COVID-19 connected with Plainview Colony School, public health will lead the response and provide guidance, including ensuring appropriate supports are in place to coordinate the response. Information regarding a confirmed case will be shared by the school, outbreaks are communicated through Manitoba media bulletins and handled by public health.

Public Health may:

- Request records that identify cohorts/groups of staff, students, volunteers and visitors in the school for a specified timeframe;
- Offer testing following established guidelines to staff, students, volunteers and visitors that may have been exposed to a positive case; and
- Assess the need for the school to be closed for a period of time.

Public health will advise staff and students if they have been in close contact, if they need to self-isolate or self-monitor and when they can return to school.

Public health guidance mandates that students, grades 4-12, staff and visitors wear non-medical masks in all schools when physical distancing is not possible.

Mask Protocol

It is strongly recommended that all students, grades 4-12, wear non-medical masks at all times while attending Fort La Bosse Schools, which includes Plainview Colony. When physical distancing cannot be achieved, masks are mandatory.

It is strongly recommended that all staff in Fort La Bosse School Division, including Plainview Colony School staff when instructing or supporting student learning, with students grades 4-12, wear non-medical masks at all times.

When physical distancing cannot be achieved, masks are mandatory.

Visitors will be requested to wear a mask when entering the school.

Non-medical masks will be made available for those that do not have their own.

Non-medical masks can be removed during outdoor class learning/instruction and play to provide a mask-free break. Physical distancing should be maintained to the best extent possible.

Please note, younger students may wear a mask, but it is not a requirement.

Any staff or students that are not able to wear masks due to medical conditions are asked to provide a medical note.

Hand Hygiene

- Staff and students will wash their hands frequently with soap and water for at least 20 seconds at the following times
 - At the start of the day and before going home
 - After going to the washroom and helping children with washroom routines
 - Before and after recess
 - Before and after eating
 - After getting hands dirty
 - After wiping noses or handling dirty tissue
 - Before and after putting on and taking off a mask
 - After soothing a crying child
 - After coughing, sneezing, or blowing nose
 - After cleaning tasks

If public health results deteriorate or guidelines are not sufficient, new measures may be paused and previous measures may be re-introduced.

Maintain social distancing to the greatest extent possible, whenever possible.

Re-Opening Response Levels

School Day Structure – Scenario 1

- School facilities have been prepared to accommodate physical distancing, increased sanitation, and hand hygiene
- The guidelines for re-opening schools have been followed
- Staff has been oriented to new public health protocols
- Parents are expected to screen their children for COVID-19 symptoms prior to coming to school
- Staff will be expected to self-screen also
 - <https://sharedhealthmb.ca/covid19/screening-tool/>
- Upon arrival at school, students will be screened at the door for symptoms and then instructed to wash their hands before entering their classroom
- Students who are sick (bad cold, flu, etc) will be sent home
- Students who display a Covid-19 symptom will be sent home and parents will be told to consult with Public Health by calling Health Links
- Students who develop symptoms during school hours will be isolated from others until parent comes to pick them up
- Students in Grades 4 and up will need to be wearing a mask (parents will be asked to provide their children with two clean masks per day)
 - Parents will be reminded that masks MUST be washed every day
- If students come to school without a mask, they will be sent home to get it, or one will be provided for them
- All staff will also wear masks (same rules as students)
- Students and staff will be educated on how to properly wear, put on, and remove masks
- Students will remain in their designated classroom for the entire day, except for Physed class, which is done outside (masks may be removed during this class)
- For Grades K-12, learning will look very similar to how it has always been done
- Items that cannot be wiped down will be removed from the classroom
- Drinking water stations will be closed and students will be allowed to bring their own personal water bottle to class
- Desks will be spaced between one and two metres apart, space permitting
- Each cohort (class) will have a designated area to play in at recess

School Day Structure – Scenario 2

- Due to the composition of our school, this Scenario would not look much different than Scenario 1, just adhering to the additional health measures

School Day Structure – Scenario 3

- Students would be grouped and put on a rotating schedule of when to come to school for that the 2 metre physical distancing can be adhered to at all times
- Non-essential visitors will be required to make an appointment and/or calling ahead
- When students are not scheduled for 'in class' learning, they will be assigned work to do at home
- No technology will be used to assist learning at home due to religious beliefs
- At this time, learning may only be Math and ELA for Grades K-6
- High school students would continue to work on all their credits

Mental Health Supports: (provided to staff and families)

Fort La Bosse School Division Counsellors:

Wendy Bancescu 204-851-1891 Chelsea Braybrook 204-851-6422

For all 3 Response Levels:

If symptoms (even mild symptoms) of the Covid-19 virus persist

beyond 24 Hours please be tested.

Results will be back in 2-3 days.

Health Links: 1-888-315-9257