

# Restoring Safe Schools in a Hutterite Context

## Preamble

This plan, prepared in conjunction with various Manitoba school divisions, independent schools, the Manitoba Health Authority, Manitoba Education, Hutterite Educators of Manitoba, and the Hutterian Safety Council, addresses the unique concerns faced by Hutterian schools during the global COVID-19 pandemic. This plan is intended to be a practical approach to implementing the provincial “Restoring Safe Schools” plan within a Hutterite context. It is the hope of all partners that this plan will be implemented in all Hutterite schools in the province to keep all Manitobans as safe as possible.

## The Hutterite Context

Hutterite Schools are different from non-communal based schools in several ways. First, they are typically single or double classroom room environments with a range of 15-30 students on the community premise.<sup>1</sup> All students are within walking distance of the school building. They may have two or more non-Hutterite teachers and/or aides and a German/religious studies teacher from within the community. A number of Hutterite schools have Hutterite teachers from within the community teaching the provincial curriculum.

In addition to the 9:00-3:30 school day, Hutterite children typically attend German and religious studies classes from 8:00-9:00pm and from 4:00-5:00pm.<sup>2</sup>

Perhaps the most significant difference is that Hutterite students are more tightly socially interconnected with all other students outside the school setting. Also, Hutterite siblings, even those at different grade levels, will almost always be in the same classroom; said differently, Hutterite classrooms can be viewed as an extension of a large extended family household. It is this outside-of-school interconnectedness inherent to close-knit communal cultural groups and interconnectedness inherent to the multi-grade instructional format which makes the Hutterite situation unique. In this context it is obvious that what happens in the community in regards to virus transmission will have a direct and equivalent expression in the school setting. Therefore, transparency and a well-defined and nimble system of communication and responses are critical to the success of any mitigation strategies. For this system to function, it is essential that all stakeholders participate fully in the implementation of the policies.

The following practices and principles will be implemented to ensure safety and health of all students and staff in Hutterite schools.

## COVID-19 Awareness and Communication

To ensure that students and staff are fully aware and up-to-date on matters related to the COVID-19 pandemic, signage and posters must be posted at strategic points.<sup>3</sup> Signage with exclusion criteria, must be posted at all entrances to the school. Additionally, there could also be

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<sup>1</sup> Some community schools may have more classrooms.

<sup>2</sup> Note that some communities have integrated these studies into the regular school day.

<sup>3</sup> These locations will depend on the schools set-up and may include the front entrances, hallways, and washrooms. Posters are available at

<https://www.gov.mb.ca/covid19/updates/resources.html#posters>.

reminders to practice physical distancing and good hand hygiene and encouraging messages to promote good mental health.

The successful implementation of COVID-19 safety measures is contingent on close cooperation and transparency between all stakeholders: school and divisional staff, students, parents, community leadership, and Public Health. All parties must make a concerted effort to cultivate this. For successful communication between school and community, a liaison from the community, either the German teacher<sup>4</sup> or a community elder, should be appointed. The responsibilities of the liaison includes the following:

- Monitor the health situation in the community, especially among the children population.
- Communicate any identified concerns to all stakeholders including parents and designated school staff.
- Determine and maintain an acceptable schedule for reporting and reviewing the situation with designated school staff. This may include regularly scheduled meetings, digital or otherwise, or daily check-ins via email or messaging apps.
- Determining a reliable means of disseminating information to students, staff, and families that minimizes rumor and gossip; transparency and honesty are essential in contending with COVID-19.

### **Physical Distancing**

Physical distancing will be practiced to the fullest extent possible in all parts of the school throughout the school day. This will include the way students enter and exit the school at designated entrances and leaving sufficient space between desks and tables. Two metres is required to the greatest extent possible. One metre is permissible only if two metres can't be maintained. In situations where physical distancing of 2 metres cannot be maintained, students in grades 4-12 are mandated to wear face masks. Younger children may also wear masks. An effective physical distancing strategy is to remove all unnecessary furniture to maximize available floor space.

### **Good Hygiene**

Regular hand washing and good hygienic practices, especially good respiratory etiquette, will be taught and reinforced by teachers and support staff. This will include:

- Handwashing with **soap and water for at least 15 seconds and single-use paper towels** or continuous roll cloth dispenser at the beginning of the day and before going home, before and after meals/snacks, before and after recess, after a washroom break, after handling dirty tissues, and as needed throughout the day especially when handling shared items such as balls, gym equipment, etc.
- **Hand sanitizer** will be available in situations where a sink is inaccessible and hands are not soiled. Only sanitization products approved by Health Canada may be used. Young children should not use alcohol-based hand sanitizer; washing with soap and water under supervision is preferred.
- **Good respiratory etiquette** includes coughing and sneezing into the elbow and the prompt disposal of used tissues.

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<sup>4</sup> On most communes besides acting as a teacher, the German teacher is also attending to children in the children's dining room during their meal times as well as supervises children during after-school hours.

### **Masks and other Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)**

Masks will be used by students from grades 4-12, teachers, support staff, and contract workers. Masks **must** be worn in common areas throughout the school and when physical distancing of two metres is not possible.<sup>5</sup> Students should bring their own cloth masks. Reusable masks must be changed every day or as needed.<sup>6</sup>

Each school must provide masks and other PPE to staff and students who do not have their own as needed.

Medical masks will be used in situations where students and/or staff members exhibit COVID-19 symptoms while at school both by the person with symptoms and the caretakers.<sup>7</sup>

### **Environmental Cleaning and Sanitizing**

Daily sanitizing and regularly-scheduled deep cleaning when students are not present must be implemented. Where this is done by *Diene* group<sup>8</sup> from the community, adult supervision must be provided. This includes:

- Washrooms and high-touch surfaces must be sanitized at least twice per day or more often as needed.
- Cleaning products recommended by Health Canada will be provided by each division and must be used according to manufacturer's directions.
- All staff will help supervise chores and deep cleaning.

### **Resources, Manipulatives, and Toys**

The sharing of instructional materials, classroom resources, and classroom supplies will be discouraged or be kept to a minimum. Any shared items must be sanitized between uses. Additionally, it is recommended that schools only make manipulatives and toys available that are easily cleaned and disinfected. For example, plush toys should be avoided. Children's personal toys (i.e., for security or comfort) are not to be shared with other children and should be stored in a way that ensures this.

In general, group sensory play cannot be used at this time. Children should not use or handle modelling clay, indoor sand, and sensory tables, as these items cannot be easily disinfected. An exception can be made for children with additional support needs where the use of these items is an important part of their individual plan. These items should then be used under staff supervision and exclusively by the individual child.<sup>9</sup>

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<sup>5</sup> Younger children should only wear masks if they are able to do so properly, otherwise there may be an increased risk of COVID-19 transmission. More information on masking can be found at <https://manitoba.ca/covid19/updates/prepareandprevent.html>.

<sup>6</sup> Information on how to properly put on, take off, or change a mask can be found at <https://manitoba.ca/covid19/updates/prepareandprevent.html>.

<sup>7</sup> Gloves, gown, and eye protection are also recommended by Manitoba Health.

<sup>8</sup> Hutterite single ladies group, 15 years and older.

<sup>9</sup> See *Learning and Joy in the Pandemic: Manitoba Kindergarten Practice Resource* for suggestions on how to safely structure Kindergarten and other Early Years classes, [https://www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/covid/docs/kindergarten\\_resource.pdf](https://www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/covid/docs/kindergarten_resource.pdf).

## **Recess and Breaks**

Manitoba Public Health advises that playgrounds and play structures are low-risk for transmission. At present, there are no specific requirements for cleaning play structures. Handwashing will take place before and after recess.

In Hutterian schools with larger populations, staggered scheduling for recess--e.g. older and younger students--may be implemented to facilitate physical distancing and general safety. Overall, students should avoid congregating into groups. Adults supervise students during recess.

## **Field Trips**

Field trips should be limited to what is deemed essential and can only occur if Public Health guidelines can be met. However, the participation of children must be voluntary and accompanied by appropriate parental permission. Note that masks are required on school buses for students in Grade 4-12, plus staff, volunteers, and the bus driver. Therefore, if a school group travels anywhere with a community or division bus, everyone is required to wear a mask.

## **Student Screening and Self-Assessment**

Students and staff can attend school if they are cleared by the Manitoba Health COVID-19 Screening tool, which will determine if they have any symptoms of COVID-19 and should therefore isolate at home. Staff and students living in the same household with a positive case under self-isolation must also self-isolate and not attend school until cleared by Manitoba Public Health.

Before leaving for school, parents/guardians are to use the Manitoba Health COVID-19 Screening Tool<sup>10</sup> to determine if it is safe for their child to attend. If a student shows any COVID-19 symptoms they should remain at home and a call to Health Links should be made. Get tested if advised to do so.

- For the first week or two, students should bring a completed screening form to school.

If a person in the household has been diagnosed with COVID-19, been in close contact with anyone diagnosed with COVID-19, or if anyone in the household has travelled outside Manitoba in the previous 14 days,<sup>11</sup> they are required to consult Health Links and may be required to self-isolate prior to attending school.

A positive COVID-19 test result for staff or students requires them to stay home. They will be cleared to return to school when no one in their household is COVID-19 positive or symptomatic and one of the following has occurred:

- They receive a negative COVID-19 test result and have been symptom-free for 24 hours;
- They receive clearance from their family physician;
- They receive clearance from Manitoba Public Health or Health Links.

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<sup>10</sup> <https://sharedhealthmb.ca/covid19/screening-tool/>.

<sup>11</sup> This does not include locations in Western Canada, the territories, and Ontario west of Terrace Bay.

## **Monitoring Health in School**

Upon entry to school, teachers and staff will monitor for illness on an on-going basis that addresses the following COVID-19 specific symptoms: fever, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, chills, headache, runny nose or nasal congestion, sore throat or painful swallowing, feeling unwell or fatigued, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, unexplained loss of appetite, loss of sense of taste or smell, aching muscles or joints, and conjunctivitis (pink eye).<sup>12</sup>

### **What Happens if a Staff Member Exhibits Symptoms?**

If a staff member or volunteer in a school becomes symptomatic, they should immediately isolate themselves from other staff and children, notify the principal, and go home to isolate. They should then contact Health Links – Info Santé (204-788-8200 or 1-888-315-9257) or their health care provider for further directions.

At the school, cleaning and disinfecting must occur. Focus should be on high-touch areas and areas where the staff or volunteer spent time. Medical notes will not be required for staff who have COVID-19 or flu-related symptoms, or for those who are caring for individuals in this situation.

A sick staff member can return to work once it has been determined that it is safe to do so by their health care provider or public health. If that staff member has a positive test, further direction will be provided by public health.

In the event a teacher is unable to teach due to illness and/or self-isolation, a substitute teacher must be assigned. In the event a certified substitute teacher is not available, a non-certified substitute or community member may perform the teacher's duties under the Limited Teaching Permit guidelines from Manitoba Education.

### **What Happens if a Child Exhibits Symptoms?**

If a child develops symptoms while at school, the child must be isolated immediately and given a medical mask. Staff providing care for the child should wear PPE (mask, gloves, gown, and shield) when physical distancing cannot be maintained. Parents/Guardians will be notified and the child will be sent home when it is safe to do so. Once the student has left the school, staff members and students should wash their hands. Additional environmental cleaning of affected areas is required, focusing on high-touch areas where the child may have spent time. All items used by the child should be cleaned and disinfected.

A sick child can return to school once it has been determined that it is safe to do so by their health care provider or public health. If that child has a positive test, further direction will be provided by Public Health.

### **Students Isolating at Home**

Anyone contacted by Public Health to self-isolate is expected to comply and stay home. Not complying with the Public Health Order may result in fines or detentions. All persons must avoid unnecessary travel and mass gatherings. If a household member is caring

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<sup>12</sup> The online screening tool can be found at <https://sharedhealthmb.ca/covid19/screening-tool/>.

for someone with COVID-19, to prevent spread, they must not go back and forth between households.

### **Re-entry to School post-COVID-19**

A student or staff member who meets any of the exclusion criteria above will not be admitted to the school and will be advised to immediately isolate and consult Health Links – Info Santé or their health care provider. Those with symptoms should be tested. If the test is negative for COVID-19, they can return 24 hours after symptoms resolve. If individuals do not get tested, they should isolate for 10 days from symptom onset, and may return if they have isolated for 10 days and symptoms have been resolved for 24 hours.

### **Outbreak Management**

In the event of a COVID-19 outbreak in a Hutterite community, Public Health, with cooperation from community leaders and school staff, will lead the response and ensure appropriate supports are in place to coordinate the response such as remote learning. School closure is the last resort and will only be done upon evidence of transmission among multiple families in the community, a lack of compliance to Public Health directives, or in the event of a community lockdown by Manitoba Health.<sup>13</sup>

### **Inter-Community and International Travel**

Parents should consider postponing all non-essential travel; staying at home is the best way to protect yourself and others from COVID-19. Inter-community travel is not advised, especially to communities directly impacted by the virus. For the purposes of contact tracing and preventing school spread, any visits should be kept to small traceable groups.

International travelers are required to follow federal and provincial guidelines by self-isolating in a separate area. This means no contact with school-aged children and their close contacts. Students in close contact with an international traveler cannot attend school until the self-isolation period has been completed or Public Health deems it safe to return to school.

If there is a positive test result due to inter-community or international travel, any students in close contact will be unable to attend school until the self-isolation period is over or Public Health deems it safe to return.

### **Visitor Access**

Visitors such as parents/guardians, healthcare providers, volunteers, and other non-staff adults entering the school should be limited to those who implement public health measures and activities that benefit student learning and well-being. All visitors and volunteers will adhere to self-screening, physical distancing, and recommended hygiene practices and, above all, stay at home if symptoms consistent with COVID-19 are present. All visitors will wear a mask, if

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<sup>13</sup> The criteria for lack of compliance is as follows: refusing to test or respond to contract tracing calls, parents, who should be self-isolating, sending students to school, or community leaders exhibiting a lack of transparency or outright resistance to public health officials.

physical distancing of 2 metres cannot be maintained. A list of visitors will be maintained for contact tracing purposes.

### **Specialty Programming**

Specialty programming in Hutterite schools varies widely. Each school will have to specifically assess their programming. The following are of significant importance:

- **Music:** One-on-one instrument instruction for piano, violin, and guitar must maintain the guidelines of all other instructional activities. Instruments should not be shared by students and disinfected between use. Choral programs and singing can only happen if physical distancing is possible and the facility is well-ventilated. The risk of viral transmission via singing is significant, and schools should consider suspending these activities for at least the first term.<sup>14</sup>
- **Physical Education:** These activities can continue provided daily symptom monitoring, masking, physical distancing, and cohorts, etc. are maintained. All activities requiring movement must take place outdoors and are limited to non-contact sports.<sup>15</sup>
- **Industrial Arts:** These activities can continue provided daily symptom monitoring, masking, physical distancing, and cohorts, etc. are maintained.

### **Interactive Instructional Television (IITV) and Other Forms of Distance Education**

Most Hutterite schools employ the use of IITV to deliver highschool programming. By its very nature, this is COVID-19-safe especially if other preventative practices and measures, such as physical distancing or cohorts are in place. All class trips and gatherings associated with these courses that cannot maintain the strictest safety protocols must be canceled.

### **German Language Classes**

The same health and safety practices and measures implemented during the regular school day must also be observed during community-based events or instruction times, such as the German language and religious studies classes typically offered before and/or after the regular school day.

### **Food Handling: *Essnschuel* and Snacks**

With the community's children eating all meals with their school cohort, the *Essnschuel* (children's dining room) is to be considered an extension of the school environment. As such, there must be a direct link of communication between the school and the *Essnschuel* parents.<sup>16</sup>

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<sup>14</sup> For more specific guidelines regarding singing and wind instruments, see *COVID-19: Guidelines for Vocalists and Instrumentalists*, [https://manitoba.ca/asset\\_library/en/covid/restoring-vocalists-instrumentalists.pdf](https://manitoba.ca/asset_library/en/covid/restoring-vocalists-instrumentalists.pdf).

<sup>15</sup> Instructors will benefit from reviewing the suggestions found in *Risk Assessment and Mitigation Tool for Recreational Activities in Manitoba*, [https://www.gov.mb.ca/asset\\_library/en/coronavirus/activities-guidelines.pdf](https://www.gov.mb.ca/asset_library/en/coronavirus/activities-guidelines.pdf).

<sup>16</sup> The *Essnschuel* [children's dining] is typically staffed by the German teacher and his wife. This may vary in some communities.

If non-Hutterite teachers eat in the community dining room, this practice must be suspended. They must either bring their own food, or it must be safely delivered using the guidelines below.

For all meals and school snacks, the following guidance applies:

- Stagger lunch times, to the greatest extent possible, to allow students to wash hands before eating, without creating congestion in washrooms or handwashing stations.
- All food must be served by servers wearing masks.
- Individuals working with food must practice meticulous hand hygiene.
- Utensils should be used to serve food.
- Remove shared food containers from eating areas, i.e., snack bowls, pitchers of water or milk, and salt and pepper shakers.
- If using single service packets of condiments, provide the packet directly to each individual, rather than self-serving from a bulk container.
- For snack programs, dispense snacks directly to children or use prepackaged snacks.
- Implement other measures as necessary or if directed by local public health officials.
- Cease activities involving student participation in food preparation.
- To the greatest extent possible, students are encouraged to eat snacks in their classroom with their cohort to ensure chances of contact and transmission are minimized.
- Students and teachers are not to use the craft room as it's being used as a classroom.
- Ensure physical distancing is maintained while students are eating.
- Proper hand hygiene must be practiced before and after eating.
- Food from home must not be shared with other students and should be stored with the student's belongings.
- Students should have their own water bottle that is labeled, kept with them during the day, and not shared.

### **Attendance Expectations and Remote Learning**

Regular attendance at school is required if possible. If remote learning is included as part of students' learning plan, students will be expected to participate.

Students who are unable to return to school due to personal or family health risks factors related to COVID-19 will be supported via remote learning.

In-class learning may be increased or suspended on short notice in response to changing public health advice. If remote learning is required, the teacher will provide consistently scheduled learning supports.

### **Recovery Learning**

Students will need time to adjust to new school routines and expectations. Some students had lower participation in remote learning than others, and educators will need to be creative to address the achievement and learning gaps that may exist. If remote learning continues, regular check-ins and assessment will support students' well-being and help students learn to the greatest extent possible.



## Contingency Plan for Instruction Levels Two or Three<sup>17</sup>

When in-class learning (Level One) is not possible, the following plans will be implemented on an as-needed basis:

- **Level Two (Blended Learning):** K-8 students and students with special needs will be prioritized for in-class learning and 9-12 students will participate in teacher-led remote learning with limited use of school facilities for specific programming and assessment. The full two metres of physical distancing are required with masks worn by students 4-12 where this is not possible. Teaching will prioritize core curriculum and required courses. Teachers will facilitate regular contact with students to keep them engaged in remote learning with the standards for remote learning clearly articulated. Access to learning resources, including technology and connectivity will be actively sought.
- **Level Three (Remote Learning):** The school is closed and all students are engaged in teacher-led remote learning. In some communities this will take place with the support of an on-site volunteer appointed and trained before-hand. Physical distancing, masks, and hygiene measures will be observed with the dissemination and return of instructional materials. Teaching will focus on literacy, numeracy, and other curricular areas as time and resources permit. Teachers will facilitate regular contact with students to keep them engaged in remote learning with the standards for remote learning clearly articulated. Access to learning resources, including technology and connectivity will be actively sought.

## Supports for Students with Special Needs

Students with special needs in all grades will return for five days of full, in-class instruction per week. There are unique challenges experienced by students with special learning needs and they may require additional support. Because these needs are diverse, schools may require additional specific supports to address their students' needs:

- When reviewing and updating Individual Education Plans (IEPs), considering changes in school environment or remote learning needs.
- Safely support the return of medically fragile students by consulting with families and local public health authorities on any new risk factors and implementing staff training as needed. If a return is not deemed feasible, continue remote learning.
- Accommodate the needs of students who require significant personal support.
- Consider alternate attendance options, depending on students' needs.<sup>18</sup>

## Professional Development

Professional Learning is important and valuable as part of pandemic response planning. Schools and school divisions are encouraged to align their professional learning with these themes: recovery learning, remote learning strategies, collaborative planning, mental health and well-being.

## Mental Health and Well Being

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<sup>17</sup> The three levels are outlined in Appendix A of [https://manitoba.ca/asset\\_library/en/covid/k-12-reopeningplan-stage-2.pdf](https://manitoba.ca/asset_library/en/covid/k-12-reopeningplan-stage-2.pdf).

<sup>18</sup> For more information, visit <https://www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/covid/support/rsssn.html>.

Schools commit to providing a safe and welcoming environment to support the mental health of staff and students

Staff will monitor every student to ensure they are feeling comfortable in school and check for behaviours that are outside their normal baseline. Schools will provide mental health and social emotional support to any student requiring assistance.<sup>19</sup>

### **Limiting non-essential visitors**

- Non-essential persons must not be permitted in the school.
- School visitors must wear masks.
- Limit parents, volunteers for classrooms, guests and others inside the school, except in emergency situations, or at the request of the school administrator, whereby they will be required to use the screening tool and conform to any expectations of safety, prior to entry being granted.
- Parents/guardians can attend the school if they are required as part of the educational programming needs of the school (e.g., medical injections, learning supports).
- When a school visit is essential, the school must screen visitors using a self-screening tool before they enter the school.
- Use of video and telephone should be used to interact with families, where possible, rather than in person interactions.
- A record of all visitors and contact information must be kept.

### **Libraries**

- Given the large number of contact surfaces and challenges with physical distancing, school libraries will not be accessible by students in September. School librarians will implement school literacy and home reading programs via classroom visits.
- Teachers may make classroom library resources available to students, ensuring that sufficient time is provided between users. Classroom libraries can be divided into student packages that are rotated after sitting over the weekend.

### **Community use of facilities**

- All doors to the school will be locked during non-school hours.
- Permits for community evening and weekend facility use are suspended until further notice.

### **Shared/Common Spaces**

- Monitor access to the school to avoid congestion.
- Ensure washrooms and lunchrooms are cleaned/disinfected frequently.
- Water fountains that are not touchless or cannot be cleaned between users must be turned off.
- Encourage outdoor activities. Outdoor spaces and playground structures can be used.
- Limit travel within the school throughout the day.
- Avoid sharing items to the greatest extent possible. Students must label personal items.

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<sup>19</sup> Manitobans over the age of 16 can access Virtual Therapy at <https://www.gov.mb.ca/covid19/bewell/virtualtherapy.html>.

- Students are encouraged to keep personal belongings with them. Locker use will be limited or discontinued.
- Remove toys, crafts and books that are not easily cleaned.
- Field trips, assemblies and other large events will not be scheduled unless public health requirements can be met.

### **Remote Learning (Orange or Red)**

Manitoba Education has stated that the upcoming school year will require school systems to continue to refine their blended or hybrid strategy. Blended or hybrid learning is an instructional mindset in which online learning tools are leveraged to enhance the face-to-face learning that occurs in a classroom.

If school closures occur or if some students are medically advised not to return to in-class learning, Park West School Division will employ remote teaching and learning.

- At-home learning will be facilitated by teachers who may support their students via online platforms, teleconference (dial 707 to conference) and print-based materials, with outreach for students who are at-risk.
- Small groups of students can be scheduled to meet with their teachers at the school if permitted by Public Health measures and the provisions of the provincial Limited Use of Schools guidelines.
- Regular personal connections will be made with students and families via phone, email or other online platforms.
- For Grades K-8, teacher-directed learning will focus on literacy and numeracy with opportunities for science and social studies, physical education/health education and the arts through cross-curricular planning.
- For Grades 9-12, teachers will prioritize learning outcomes/expectations and plan specific curriculum-related tasks for students.
- It is recommended that teachers plan an average of 5 hours per week of curriculum-based learning for students in K-4 and 10 hours per week for students in Grade 5-8.
- It is recommended that Grade 9 - 12 teachers plan for 3 hours of curriculum-based learning per course per week for semester courses, and 1.5 hour of learning per course per week for non-semestered courses.
- Teachers will work to:
  - Collaborate with school administration to implement the plans for teaching and learning.
  - Prioritize learning outcomes based on what is manageable for students primarily working from home.
  - Provide equitable learning opportunities for all students.
  - Work closely with families to implement learning opportunities that support grade level outcomes. Provide ongoing support for student learning, including support for families for learning at home. Monitor and assess student learning.

## Specific Notes for Decker's Situation

MB Public Health & School Divisions determine health measures we follow in school as outlined in this document.

It is not up to individual schools or teachers to make their own plans. Public Health has taken the lead on this and we are obligated to follow the plan.

We have at three non-colony staff members: Jacqueline Hawkins, Barbara Jaeb, and Joan Trott. We have to ensure that these staff members can be confident that DCS is a low-risk environment and that they can teach safely.

- School start date would be September 14. We begin with remote learning for at least 6 days; the last kids to exit isolation seems to be on Sept 21. This date is tentative and subject to change.
- Most students have not had the virus yet. That makes them susceptible to contracting it. Therefore, we have to adhere to all public health measures as outlined in the Back to School Plan unless/until Public Health advises us otherwise.
- Once we are back to in-class learning, family members can be seated closer together than 2 meters. Everyone else needs to physically distance.

To minimize student movement and to ensure we use the largest spaces for the largest groups of students, consider having teacher move to students.

- K-2 SS with Jacqueline could move to Kathy's classroom. Students wouldn't have to move then.
- Kathy's German class could be in Jacqueline's or Elias' room.

Once in-class learning resumes, the expectation is that all students will adhere to all the public health measures in order to keep everyone safe. Teachers are expected to advocate for and implement all of these public health guidelines.

Should we not be able to adhere to the public health guidelines, we may have to revert to remote learning.

## Conclusion

This document is subject to changes and updates as School divisions, Hutterite schools and communities, and Manitoba contend with the highly fluid nature of COVID-19. For the latest COVID-19 Education News, visit <https://www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/covid/index.html>.

## Bibliography

*Restoring Safe Schools: August 13 - School Settings Practice Guidance and Protocols*, <https://manitoba.ca/covid19/restoring/rss-practice-guidance.html>.

*Restoring Safe Schools: July 30 - Guidelines for September 2020*, <https://manitoba.ca/covid19/restoring/rss-guidelines-september.html>.

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