



**SEVEN OAKS**  
SCHOOL DIVISION  
*community begins here*

## **SEVEN OAKS SCHOOL DIVISION**

830 Powers Street  
Winnipeg, MB. R2V 4E7  
204-586-8061

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October 26, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians:

### **Re: Additional COVID-19 Safety Measures**

We have had a successful start to the school year. We have worked hard to prepare our schools for a safe return and to offer a healthy and positive school experience.

Our staff have done an incredible job of adhering to provincial guidelines, staying calm and providing high quality learning experiences for our students. They have taught our students to be safe. They have reconfigured classrooms and reimagined learning. They have taken learning outdoors at every opportunity.

This hasn't been easy. Our staff's dedication to our learners has required tremendous energy and commitment. Things are more difficult.

On Friday, October 16th our Chief Provincial Health Officer Dr. Roussin rolled out additional measures to reduce the spread of COVID in Winnipeg. He was asked specifically about schools. He honoured schools for their work in preventing and controlling the spread of infection. He noted that the cases of COVID occurring in schools are all coming from outside of schools and with rare exception are not spreading within schools. He went on to say that schools have done a great job this fall and that we would all be at greater risk with kids out of school.

In Seven Oaks we have had students attending a number of our schools test positive for COVID. In virtually every case the infection was contracted outside of the school and in every case we were able to contain the infection without affecting more than a small cohort. We are thankful to our staff for their quick, calm and thoughtful response to these situations.

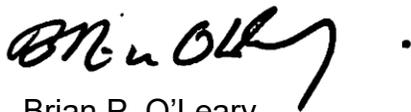
On Thursday, October 22<sup>nd</sup> Dr. Roussin announced additional measures for schools to adopt while Winnipeg is in Code Orange. We are in the process of implementing those measures now. We will be pausing field trips, choral singing and band. We are hiring additional staff to further reduce class sizes where possible in order to support increased social distancing. Blended learning will continue in high schools to ensure social distancing. More staff will wear medical grade masks. We will also be extending remote learning on a temporary basis for some students where it makes sense for the student and where the family is able to support it. The details of how these additional measures will be implemented will vary by school.

We are extending remote learning, only on a temporary basis, for additional students in Kindergarten through Grade 8 where we are able and where it makes sense. If you think this is advisable for your child please contact their school directly. In order for us to provide remote learning the following conditions need to be met.

- The school is unable to provide social distancing of two meters in the classroom.
- The home is able to provide adult support for home learning for two to three hours daily.
- The student adapted well to home learning during the suspension of classes last spring.
- The student will return to class once the Code Orange for Winnipeg is lifted.

We are doing everything we can to keep our students safe and keep them learning. We really appreciate the support and confidence of our parents as we adapt to the realities we face.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian O'Leary", followed by a period.

Brian P. O'Leary  
Superintendent

BPO/dlh