

Seven Oaks School Division Restoring Safe Schools

Planning for Student Success Upon the Return to School



SEVEN OAKS
SCHOOL DIVISION
community begins here

www.7oaks.org

Will my child be at school 5 days a week?

- Children in Kindergarten through Grade 8 and students with special needs will be in-class full days, 5 days per week.
- Grade 9 to 12 students will return on a blended basis. Most high school students will attend on alternate days in order to facilitate social distancing. Students in internships and CVE programs will attend more frequently.
- Schools will communicate specific scheduling arrangements the week of August 31st.

Will students, teachers and staff be required to wear a mask at school or on the bus?

- All students in Grade 4 and up are required to wear masks when they are unable to socially distance. They are required to wear a mask on school buses. Younger students may wear masks.
- Reusable masks will be provided to all students without charge. Disposable masks will be available on buses and in classrooms for students who forget to bring their mask.

What will school be like for Kindergarten to Grade 8 students?

- For Kindergarten to Grade 8 students classroom life will be as close to normal as we can make it. We will arrange furniture so there is more social distancing (a meter of space between students) and ensure more handwashing. We will be cleaning more, going outside more and bringing more fresh air in. We will be restricting contact between classes so that your child's class is in their school bubble.
- We have an advantage in Seven Oaks in that we keep class sizes low (around 20 in the early grades and usually no more than twenty-five in middle years).
- We will be avoiding large gatherings like assemblies and concerts. We will stagger lunch, recess and activity breaks so that we can limit contact. We will be organizing entry and exit in order to avoid crowding.
- Teachers will be focussing on where students are at and developing learning plans that help students who missed the benefit of in-person instruction and challenge those students who thrived on remote learning.
- At the beginning of the year teachers will pay a lot of attention to the basics of keeping safe (staying home if you are symptomatic, social distancing, handwashing, wearing a mask, cough etiquette).
- As the year progresses teachers will focus on the essential skills students need to progress academically and the social skills they need to get along in the world.

What will high school be like?

- Most high school students will attend in person every second day and learn at home on the alternate days. Half of our students will attend days 1, 3 and 5. Half will attend days 2, 4 and 6. Schools will communicate details the week of August 31st. Exceptions to this will be students in CVE programs and students in our Met Schools where they are in internships, distinct cohorts, out of school facilities and some in school facilities large enough to permit physical distancing.
- At school, students will follow a normal class schedule and will be required to maintain a physical distance of two meters from others as much as possible. We will avoid large gatherings like assemblies, concerts and large scale sporting events.

- At home, students will be expected to engage in learning activity prescribed and supported by their teachers for the full school day. This will vary by subject and teacher. All of our high school classrooms are equipped with webcams so that teachers can teach students in person and online at the same time. Students will also be engaged in practice work, reading, assignments and project work while at home. Schools will lend tablet devices and assist with connectivity as required.
- Staying home when symptomatic, social distancing, frequent handwashing and mask use are keys to safety for high school students. Teachers will give students strong and consistent guidance.
- Teachers recognize that some students thrived in the period of remote learning and some did not. They will be adapting their courses to support students who need support and challenge students who need that challenge.

How will my child get to school?

- School buses will be running in September for those students who are eligible for school bus transportation but their capacity will be limited. It will be helpful if parents transport their own children where possible. Students living in walking distance should walk to school.
- Schools will be implementing protocols to ensure that entry and exit from the school are managed to avoid congestion. Parents who are transporting their children must drop and pick up their children a block or two from school.
- Transportation arrangements will be communicated the week of August 24th.

How far apart will they be sitting from other students on the bus?

- When possible, one student per seat is recommended. However, children from the same household and students in the same in-school cohorts may also sit together on the bus.
- Students will have assigned seats on the bus and must stay in those seats while on the bus.
- Frequently touched surfaces will be wiped down between runs. Buses will be cleaned and sanitized each day.

Will class sizes be reduced to allow for physical distancing and if so will extra school space need to be converted to classrooms (e.g. gyms)?

- High School classes will be reduced in half with students attending alternate days.
- Kindergarten to Grade 8 schools will physical distance to the best extent possible, including the use of alternative spaces like multi-purpose rooms. We will make use of the outdoors as much as possible. Class sizes will not be capped as public health advice does not warrant reducing the number of students to a specific number. Seven Oaks schools will continue to maintain reasonable class sizes.

How far apart will they be sitting from other students at school?

- Two metres of physical distancing is the public health recommendation. When this is not possible, students will remain within cohorts to reduce exposure to others. Cohorts will distance themselves from other groups to limit exposure. In these instances there must be at least 1 meter between students as they sit at their desks.

- Seven Oaks schools will enforce physical distancing of 2 meters at high school.
- Cohorts will be used for Kindergarten to Grade 8 students. In most cases the Kindergarten to Grade 8 cohort will be limited to student's homeroom class.

Will there be screening for students before they enter the school?

- Students and staff will need to self-screen at home, before going to the school. Parents and caregivers are responsible for their own child's self-screening. School staff may conduct screening at school.
- Parents and caregivers will be provided with printed and online tools for screening.

Will hand sanitizer and other cleaning supplies be provided or should they bring their own?

- Hand sanitizer, hand soap and necessary cleaning supplies will be provided at the school.

Will there be special breaks for hand washing and desk cleaning?

- 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.
 - Before preparing food.
 - Before and after eating.
 - After getting hands dirty.
 - After wiping noses or handling dirty tissues.
 - After coughing, sneezing or blowing nose.
 - After cleaning tasks (staff).

Will additional cleaning and sanitization be implemented?

- Increased frequency of cleaning and sanitization, particularly high-touch surfaces and common/shared areas, will be implemented.
- Commonly touched surfaces will be disinfected frequently, at least twice daily.
- Ample hand cleaning supplies will be available at all sinks in washroom and kitchen areas.

Who is going to clean the desks after each day?

- Custodial staff will be responsible for cleaning and disinfecting at the school.

Does my child have to go to school?

- School attendance is mandatory in Manitoba. All students are expected to participate fully in learning, even when remote learning is required.
- Remote learning will be in place only for students who have been medically advised not to return to in-class learning due to COVID related risk factors.

If they stay home because they feel sick how are they going to get their assignments?

- Classroom teachers will support the development and provision of at-home learning packages for students who are isolating or quarantined.

If they are home for an extended period how do they keep learning if they don't have access to a computer?

- Seven Oaks will continue to assist families with tablet devices and internet connection. High schools will set up common spaces as study halls for students on their off days.

If parents are uncomfortable with the risk of having their kids attend in classroom do they have the option of asking for virtual learning opportunities or extra tutoring resources?

- The safety, health and wellbeing for all students, staff and families has been a guiding principle in our planning.
- Optional virtual learning is not an option. Public health has determined that it is safe to resume in-class learning while following public health guidance for screening, enhanced hand hygiene, physical distancing, the use of cohorts and outbreak management, which is paramount in keeping as many students as possible in schools this fall and throughout the pandemic.
- Remote learning will be in place only for students **who are medical advised** not to return to in-class learning due to COVID related risk factors.
- School staff and administrators will continue to support students in their return to in-class learning. Mental health and well-being is critical to returning to in-class learning plans. Regular check ins and informal assessments will play an important role in supporting transitions.

Is there going to be recess?

- Yes. Lunch and recess breaks will be staggered in order to facilitate social distancing.

Will students eat lunch at school? Is there going to be cafeteria service?

- Kindergarten to Grade 8 students may remain at school for lunch. Lunch and recess breaks will be staggered throughout the day and whenever possible children will be kept together with their class or cohort during these breaks.
- Students must bring their own lunches. Schools will continue to offer breakfast and lunch programs with necessary adjustments to ensure health guidelines are in place. Schools will have no-sharing policies in place. High school food services will operate on a limited basis consistent with health guidelines.

Will my school shut down if there is a positive case identified in the school?

- Decisions about school closures will be made on a case-by-case basis with public health leading the response and providing guidance, including ensuring appropriate supports are in place to coordinate the response.
- 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.

What happens if a child in their class tests positive? Will we be notified as parents?

- In the event of confirmation of a case of COVID-19 connected with a class, public health will lead the response and provide guidance, including ensuring appropriate supports are in place to coordinate the response. 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.

Would my child then not be allowed back into school for 14 days if another student tests positive in their class?

- There is no single answer to this question. Public health will take the circumstances of the individual situation into consideration and provide direction on a case-by-case basis. Public health will assess the amount of contact and risk of transmission to inform these decisions.

Can students use playground equipment?

- Yes, outdoor activities are encouraged and outdoor spaces and playground structures can be used.
- Public health advises that playgrounds and play structures are low risk for transmission.
- Separate containers of equipment will be maintained for each class or cohort and equipment will be cleaned between recess periods.
- Zones will be marked to manage group sizes and avoid contact among groups.

Will there be gym class?

- Physical education will continue with necessary modifications for physical distancing. When possible it is likely that this will occur outside.

Will there be music and choir?

- Schools will ensure that they follow the Guidelines for Vocalists and Instrumentalists and recommendations of the Manitoba Music Educators' Association.

Will there still be sports teams?

- Sports teams may continue as long as the school ensures they follow up-to-date information regarding Manitoba's Restoring Safe Services Sports Guidelines.
- We have posted the Manitoba High Schools Athletic Association Guidelines for return to play on the division website.

Are they going to have as many electives in High School as usual?

- Schools will do everything they can to offer a rich and full program for our students.

Will there be provincial exams?

- A decision about Grade 12 provincial tests will be made and communicated by the end of September. This will depend on the public health situation and the extent to which students are able to access in-class learning.

Will they still be sharing a locker with another student?

- Students are encouraged to keep personal belongings with them when they return to school. Locker use will be limited or discontinued.

Will there be sharing of books in the library?

- Schools are able to operate libraries. Schools will undertake increased frequency of cleaning and sanitization throughout the building, particularly where there are high-touch surfaces and common/shared areas.

Is the library even open?

- Individual schools will make this determination as this space may be needed as an instructional space to accommodate physical distancing of students.

Will in-school child care facilities be requiring masks and/or operating at reduced capacity to allow for social distancing?

- Current Early Learning and Child Care Practice Guidance (June 2020) advises that the use of non-medical masks (cloth or homemade masks) within child care settings is not recommended. However, some staff and children may choose to bring and wear a non-medical mask while in the centre. Masks are not recommended for children under two years of age.
- Also, as of June 1, 2020 licensed child care centres, including facilities in schools, can continue to provide care for up to 24 children. Larger centres with separate rooms and external entrances can accommodate up to 24 children per room. Home-based child care providers can also continue to operate with the number of children for which they are licensed.
- Schools will work cooperatively with child care centres to ensure that these centres can continue to operate.

Are visitors and volunteers allowed to be in schools?

- Schools will minimize visitors and volunteers at school facilities. When their presence is necessary, visitors and volunteers must first self-screen and adhere to physical distancing and hygiene practices in place for students and staff. Community use of schools will be restricted with the exception of child care centres operating in schools and programs that serve our students.