

June 26, 2020

Manitoba Education has informed us that the 2020/21 school year will begin for our students on Tuesday, September 8, 2020. We are very much looking forward to seeing all students in class, however, we are also preparing for a variety of scenarios based on public health protocols that may be expected come September. Click [here](#) to view the full [Manitoba Education Restoring Safe Schools document](#).

Scenarios

While Manitoba is targeting a return to in-class learning for all students in the fall, we have been asked to prepare a re-opening plan for different public health scenarios 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.

The province has committed to confirming before August 1 which scenario we are to follow in the fall. That decision will take into account the public health situation at the time. We are also preparing for the possible need to be prepared to roll-back in-class learning based on public health advice.

Cohorts

As we plan for the three scenarios shown above, we are also looking at how some schools can limit potential exposure among students by keeping groups of students, called cohorts, together throughout the day. By limiting exposures and avoiding interactions with other groups, we can drastically reduce the potential number of exposed staff and students.

Attendance

Students are expected to attend in-class learning. If remote learning is included as part of their learning plan, students will be expected to participate. Parents who prefer to have their child home schooled will need to follow provincial guidelines for establishing a [home-schooling program](#).

Students who are unable to return to school due to personal or family health risks factors related to COVID-19 will be supported in remote learning. This may be done at the provincial level and we are waiting for additional information, which we will share with those families for whom this applies.

We hope this information on the school start date and our planning goals will help you with your summer planning. Please note that WSD teachers and staff will return from Summer Break on September 2 to begin preparations in advance of students returning to the classroom the following week.