

**Manitoba K to 12 COVID-19 Response Planning Team**  
**1:30 pm to 3:00 pm, November 4, 2020**  
**Teams Meeting**

Item	Record of Discussion
<b>1. Welcome</b>	<p>Chair: Donna Davidson</p> <p>Participants:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">, Nicole Thorkelson, Rhonda Shaw, Megan Prydun, Allan Hawkins</p> <p>Regrets: Jeffrey Kehler,</p>
<b>2. Review of Minutes and Action</b>	<p>Reviewed minutes and no errors or omissions were noted.</p> <p>requested to add two emergent issues to the agenda under other business: absentee vacancies – correlation to the code red with all family members staying home to isolate and childcare is requesting employers to write letters of proof of employment.</p> <p>Reviewed Action Tracker and the following items were addressed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Criminal Record Check: circulated an email to all divisions. Online access for the completion of CRC is being provided by local police detachments. This helps with the backlog of CRC. In terms of verifications, which require fingerprinting, this is more complex. Particularly in respect of RCMP detachments, these remain strictly closed to public and this signifies that verification services cannot take place according to regular channels and no exceptions will be made.</li> <li>- Limited teaching permit: In light of information on CRC, some of the pressure may be alleviated. The current number of days a non-certified teacher can substitute is 15 consecutive and 20 cumulative. It aligns with the quarantine period. LTP applications were high in September, but now they are back to the standard number of monthly applications. Action item moved to COMPLETED.</li> <li>- Recruitment and retention of substitutes, is still ongoing. The main areas are pay and sick leave. Requested to have it tabled for discussion today.</li> <li>- Labour capacity: The item remains IN PROGRESS.</li> <li>- Substitute teacher LTP: Item moved to COMPLETED.</li> <li>- Manitoba Safe Schools Funding: Brief report on today's agenda</li> <li>-</li> </ul> <p>requested an item be added to a future agenda –</p>
<b>3. Business Arising</b>	<p><b>Mental health and wellness considerations for teachers/principals, staff and students (standing item, time permitting) – All</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- EDU shared an article written by three professors from the University of Manitoba, which describes the benefits of remaining positive during the pandemic. It explains the costs of confusing optimism with toxic positivity. <a href="https://www.edcan.ca/articles/its-ok-to-be-ok-too/">https://www.edcan.ca/articles/its-ok-to-be-ok-too/</a></li> <li>- As a system, what can we do to minimize stress and support teachers and staff?</li> </ul>

- This is a balancing act; a system response may be challenging, because not everyone needs the same thing. The item is important to and we have shared our concerns. The CTF data will be released tomorrow. How do we focus our priorities?
- The balancing act has always been there, but the current circumstances has heightened this. How do we continue to message to our public that schools are good places to be? I think I hear that, fundamentally, kids should be in schools, but how do we help to build or support a culture of communication that this is where students belong?
- There has to be a way to put out a message as an education group that we acknowledge and maintain that schools are the safest place for students and staff. The public and parents are looking for more reassurance.
- Suggested that this topic would best be addressed in a small group where the members can go deep on the topic and strategize.
- If we can find a way to support others in our systems we should for example, support principals who set the tone regarding health and wellness. Help them, either formally or through local organizations. Small things make a huge difference

- **Update on COVID-19 Funding –Donna Davidson on behalf of Sarah Whiteford, EDU**

- School divisions and schools have submitted their September month-end COVID-19 expenditure reports. Thank you.
- Based on those reports and the feedback we received, the department recognizes that there are COVID-related expenditures not covered by the existing categories of the Safe Schools Fund.
- Therefore, the department has expanded the eligible categories to now include:
  - Healthy spaces, examples include equipment and supplies, HVAC adaptations and costs, space rentals, non-capital upgrades, and casual or term staffing
  - Remote learning and technology, including software and hardware, course packages, adaptive equipment, and casual or term staffing
  - Learning recovery and mental health specific to the COVID-19 response, including casual or term staffing, and contracted resources.
- School divisions and schools will receive updated templates for the October month-end report that includes these new categories. This will be send out early this week.
- The department has heard anecdotally that some schools do not have the essential supplies required to adhere to public health guidelines. It is imperative that schools and school divisions reach out to the department if such challenges do arise.

The PPE notification that they got yesterday said specially MASKS AND SHIELDS – should gowns and gloves be included as PPE?

	<p>Provincial board chairs bi-weekly session yesterday reinforced that projections are being put forward – boards need to be in the loop because they are the link to the community when it relates to rumours of insufficient funding.</p>
<p><b>4. New Business</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Provincial Remote Learning Strategy – Dana Rudy (EDU)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– A slide presentation was shared with the team, which outlined the following:           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– The goal for the provincial remote learning strategy is to ensure all students have access to high quality learning.</li> <li>– Representatives from the various regions have come together to oversee the design of the framework. A steering committee and an advisory council have been established to ensure communication and planning across the province.</li> <li>– Deliverables:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Create a provincial framework outlining guiding principles for remote learning to promote equitable outcomes by ensuring that all students have access to and engage in high quality learning.</li> <li>- Create a provincial collection of on-demand, accessible teaching, learning and assessment resources (repository) to support the delivery of remote learning. The repository includes grade-band level tools and strategies for teachers, staff, students, and parents/caregivers.</li> <li>- Coordinate the design and delivery of a professional learning strategy, including a focus on mentoring, building capacity and technical proficiency, and enhancing pedagogical approaches.</li> <li>- Develop a system to monitor progress and results, and report on adoption and progress related to goals.</li> <li>- Establish a remote learning support team of teachers, student service professionals and other staff dedicated to supporting remote learning</li> <li>- Leverage partnerships to enhance remote leaning across the province.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Manitoba Education Webinar Panel on Experiences with COVID-19 Cases in Schools – Donna Davidson, EDU</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Manitoba Education Webinar Panel on Experiences with COVID-19 Cases in Schools – Donna Davidson, EDU</li> <li>– Manitoba Education is organizing a panel discussion with school principals where they will share their experiences and best practices related to COVID-19 cases in schools. Participants will have the opportunity to ask questions from the panel at the end of the session. Principals from the following schools will be presenting:</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

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<b>5. Other Business</b>	<p><b>Childcare,</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- We know that teachers are critical service workers; but the division has heard that teacher's childcare centre won't accept their children unless they have a note written by the school division confirming their employment. School divisions cannot write a letter for every teacher who requires one to present to his/her childcare centre. What we heard today is that when we go to Red, childcare is open for children of critical service workers. Some childcare facilities are telling families that they will get priority in childcare when we go to Red. Education personnel will check into this request.</li> </ul>
<b>6. Future Agenda Items</b>	-
<b>7. Next Meeting</b>	- Wednesday, November 18, 2020, 1:30 pm – 3:00 pm
<b>8. Adjournment</b>	- Meeting adjourned at 3:00 pm