

Manitoba K to 12 COVID-19 Response Planning Team
1:30 pm to 3:00 pm, January 13, 2021
Teams Meeting

Item	Record of Discussion
1. Review of Minutes/Action Items	<p>Review of Minutes: No errors or omissions.</p> <p>Review of Action Tracker:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (Lessons learnt) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The information is still being worked on. The plan is to take the lessons from this document and combine it with the principal's document. • Mental Health and Wellness Committee <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ No updates • Manitoba Education Structure – Who to call <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Will share when available • Rapid Testing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Melissa Nishizeki and Jennifer Chiarotto will be presenting today under New Business. • Notification Toolkit <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Clarification from last meeting, Step 4 is an optional step and principals are not required to do this step.
2. New Business	<p>Rapid Test – EDU</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Melissa has been working as the lead for education on the Fast-pass rapid testing strategy. Jennifer is the lead strategist on the Provincial Testing Task Force. Education is not the lead on this initiative, but we are the first participants in this pilot program. • The information being shared is to be kept confidential at this time. • The Fast-Pass Pilot: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Begins Monday, January 18 with five school divisions participating. These divisions were selected based on their proximity to the testing site, urban/rural balance and number of staff. A conversation has taken place with these participating divisions. ○ During this pilot, teachers and education support staff in these school divisions will make an appointment for rapid testing at the testing site at 1066 Nairn Ave and public health will provide results within 8 hours on the Shared Health Portal. ○ The focus will be symptomatic teachers and education support staff, however, those who are close contacts are also eligible. As the rapid test is a new form of testing, individuals who have completed the micro-credential program at Red River Community College will be administering the tests. During the pilot program, the number of tests administered will be lower per day. The testing goal will be 160 tests per day once fully operational. ○ The goal of the pilot program is to provide dedicated access for teachers to be tested, support more timely contact tracing and notification system. By doing this pilot target at the education system, it will give opportunity to the review the program and give the education system reassurance. ○ Tests that come back negative or inconclusive will be validated through the regular testing system. Results will take up to 48 hours to be available on the portal.

- To book an appointment for a test, the individual will be asked questions to determine their eligibility. Proof of identification and proof of employment with a school/division will need to be provided. Some schools/school divisions have a photo id card indicating name and location of employment which may be presented. A template letter is being prepared for school/school division use if school/division does not have such ID. It will be simply a matter of filling in the necessary information. It is recommended that these letters for staff be prepared in advance. A paper or electronic copy (on a mobile device) will be accepted.
- A News Release is planned for January 14, 2021. A FAQ will be available online. An email for school divisions to share will be sent. Once available the template letter will also be sent.
- The intent is to offer to all schools and school divisions the rapid testing starting in February (actual date to be determined). The success of the program will be monitored and may allow for expansion of other tests sites in locations such as Brandon and Winkler.
- At this time, there are not plans to test asymptomatic individuals. An individual will not be limited to the number of times they may be tested using the rapid test strategy. They simply must meet the criteria of symptomatic or a close contact.
- Teachers and support staff will continue to have access to other test sites.
- Kindergarten to Grade 8 Remote Learning Guidance Document – EDU
 - On January 12, Superintendents and Principals of Funded-Independent schools received a copy of the Remote Learning Guidance document to support K-8 remote learning planning.
 - The temporary two-week period of remote learning following the holiday break will end and in-person classroom learning will resume. Schools will remain in Restricted level (Orange) of the Pandemic Response and public health measures under the Restricted level (Orange) are in place for all schools:
 - https://manitoba.ca/asset_library/en/covid/response-management-K-12-restricted.pdf
 - School divisions and schools may continue to offer optional remote learning to Kindergarten to Grade 8 students who can be supported while learning at home for the remainder of the 2020/2021 school year.
 - The Remote Learning Guidance document has been updated. The word “temporary” has been removed. This is in an effort to look at more permanency planning as there is an understanding that we will be in orange level for a longer period than expected.
 - The Manitoba Remote Learning Support Centre is available to support optional remote learning for K-8 students.
 - Schools are being asked to review and update their Restricted level (Orange), and planning for Restricted level (Red), so that Schools remain prepared.
- Data Dashboard – EDU
 - The Manitoba Education Data Dashboard is close to being finalized. The goal of the team working on this project is to improve public reporting and provide information that is easy to use and understand.
 - The data source will be the same as public health when they talk about public cases.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communal Living Document – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A copy of the document was received and a conversation took place with the school divisions who work directly with colonies and there still appears to be some gaps. There is no one available to verify some of the information shared. The coversheet of this document does not indicate ownership/author and is creating difficulties for the divisions. Without the necessary ownership, a colony has the right to question validity of the information provided. ○ Would it be possible to get clarity and/or an update? • Attendance Data Request – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ This item has not been on recent agendas. In the late summer/Fall, there was some work done to determine what kind of attendance codes will be used for accurate recording. Closer to Christmas, there was a request for some additional data. In checking with the Divisions, there was angst and extra work. Some School Divisions indicated that it seemed doable. The majority of the school divisions were doing one of three things: talking with their vendor to write program, or tying up significant IT time to manually populate the data, or potentially developing spreadsheet solely for this purpose so the information can be sent in. Not all Divisions are contacting the department. ○ The actual criteria has now been sent and another check with divisions was done. Concerns were raised about the additional workload and the accuracy of the data (difficulty in determining data for high schools). ○ will continue to try to help by determining the divisions' concerns. ○ There is also a second conversation mixed in – analysis of the correlation between attendance and student success. ○ There is concern that changes done to the report card would be at the divisions' expense. The stakeholders need to be involved in this conversation.
<p>3. Other Business</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Questions regarding provincial exams and mid-terms <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ What is the decision on the Grade 12 ELA/Math provincial exams for June? IS there one yet? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Information will be shared once a decision is made about the Provincial Tests. ○ Have school divisions received any direction from the province on mid-term and final school exams (at the school level)? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Province does not mandate or dictate assessments that are done at the school level. The only mandatory provincial tests are for Grade 12 ELA and Mathematics. ▪ Manitoba Provincial Report Card Policy and Guidelines: https://www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/assess/docs/report_card/full_doc.pdf ▪ Policies and Procedures for Provincial Tests https://www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/assess/docs/pol_proc/document.pdf ▪ Provincial Assessment Policy Kindergarten to Grade 12 https://www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/assess/docs/policy_k12/full_doc.pdf ○ Any progress on the vaccination priority level for those working in education? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ No information at this time.
<p>4. Next Meeting</p>	<p>– Wednesday, January 20, 2021, 1:30 pm – 3:00 pm</p>