

**Manitoba K to 12 COVID-19 Response Planning Team**  
**RECORD of DISCUSSION**  
1:30 – 2:45 pm September 16, 2020  
Microsoft Teams Meeting

1. **Welcome and follow up on action items.**
  - a) Grade 12 Provincial Tests – no update today. A decision to proceed with the tests will be made and communicated by the end of September.
  - b) Federal Safe Return to School funding – no new information available.
  
2. **COVID-19 cases in schools**
  - a) **Notification Process**

Dana Rudy provided an overview of the evolving public health/school and department of education process over the past week, nothing changes forthcoming to clarify and streamline decision-making and expedite communication, to the extent possible, recognizing that variations will exist depending on the circumstances of the case(s).

Changes will include Education a lead role to ensure communication is flowing and the school's notification planning is underway; standardize process for public health signature to the letter(s); ensuring updates to the provincial PRS website are made (if required); participate in discussions on school closure to reflect the public health situation and advice; facilitate after hours school contact (to Principal or designate).

Follow up items:

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- b) **Pandemic Response Levels** – Public Health will continue to make the determination, Education responsible to ensure the changes to the PRS (if applicable) are reflected on the PRS website as soon as letters to the school community are distributed.

c) **K-6 Students of Critical Services Workers**

Work is underway to expand the definition of critical services workers to include educators (teachers, administrators and EA), and to determine a process responsive to the PRS). A slide deck was shared outlining information gathered, key consideration and questions for input.

Follow up items:

- Members to review the deck. Meghan Prydun will reach out to individual RPT members to seek feedback and identify gaps and challenges regarding moving this work forward.

3.

4. **Public Health Measures**

- a) **Further Guidance on Mask Use Limitations and School Accommodations** shared in advance of the meeting for feedback, with the objective of providing clearer information to schools and school divisions to mitigate significant objections to mask wearing in several school divisions.

Follow up items:

Edits to be made promptly to accept feedback, ensure consistency in use of student/child

- b) **COVID-19 Circulars** – efficient tool to share evolving public health advice and revisions to practice guidance and protocols. Additional details pertaining to bus seating and cohorts for students who cannot wear a mask to be sent out by end of week.

5. **Student Attendance**

Agreement reached by Education team and on 2020-21 attendance reporting that reflects the circumstances of the pandemic, including the need for accurate in-school attendance for contact tracing and information regarding the proportion of the school year students are participating in remote learning (given variability across the province). Formal correspondence to be circulated shortly.

**6. Fact sheet for substitute teachers**

Clarification was requested from the group regarding the intended audience, and key content areas for this item. Dawn Wood to consult with [redacted] on work to date with the aim to finalize by next RPT on Sept 23.

**7. Educator Tool Kit Checklist for schools and school divisions (added item).**

Dana Rudy clarified the purpose of the checklist as a communication and capacity building tool to support schools in implementing requirements and public health measures for this school year. Principals should be encouraged to speak with their superintendents if there are challenges in implementing any of the requirements listed. If there are challenges to meeting the timelines, please contact Nicole Thorkelson directly at [Nicole.Thorkelson@gov.mb.ca](mailto:Nicole.Thorkelson@gov.mb.ca).

**8. Stakeholder Updates**

Time did not permit updates. Members are welcome to submit updates by email for incorporation into an updated ROD for this meeting.

Agenda correction on September 23, 2020 should read [redacted] instead of [redacted]

**Next Meeting – September 23, 2020, 1:30 – 2:45 pm**