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

ltem	Record of Discussion
Review of	Review of Minutes:
Minutes/Action	• Important to reconvene to discuss, problem solve, and plan for this time period.
Items	
New Business	 Critical (Red) Level Response Urban Centres – EDU Schools/School Divisions had plans prepared in case the move to Critical (Red) was required and the leadership and challenges of being in this level are recognized. In order to learn what percentage of students are in schools should data be collected? Additional requests for data should not be sent out unless there is an immediate or purposeful intent. School Staffing Challenges During Restricted Level (Orange) – EDU The third wave has created challenges for school staffing with the requirements to self-isolate. How can further stress on the system be minimized? Is it possible to use Senior High School students to assist? Hire recent teacher grads or other new grads Are there barriers to using teacher grads/LPT? If so, would it be possible to remove restrictions temporarily? What about hiring internationally trained teachers?
	 Action: A small group with expertise on this matter should be convened to review the suggestions made. School Communities – Absenteeism/Symptomatic Staff and Students – EDU and Bulletin #10 outlines the process to allow school administrators to make decisions regarding moving to remote learning. Also, the Notification Support Team (casesinschools@gov.mb.ca) would be able to assist school administrators with this process.
	 Hours are being adjusted to respond to the needs on the weekend. Queries need to made to the cases in schools Inbox. The COVD Inbox is not manned on the weekend. A couple of school officials have contacted the Department regarding closing a school due to high absenteeism, but testing for COVID has not occurred. Schools are having difficulty with the words "should" and "must". Refer to Public Health if there are questions. Re-opening Plans – May 30, 2021 – EDU In preparing to re-open schools that have closed for remote learning during this time, what
	 issues need to be discussed with public health officials? It is important to give as much notice as possible regarding the re-opening of schools (2-3 days notice, if possible). Schools want to be open for the end of the year. PPE Discussion – Seeking clarity regarding cloth masks vs. medical masks. The department has done its best to provide the PPE that is recommended by public health officials. The PPE guidance that was sent out indicated that non-medical masks are required for students in Grades 4-12 and staff and required on school buses. Teachers and staff who move across cohorts are required to wear medical masks. Public health supports the use of medical masks and eye protection when 2 meters is not

 School divisions have been getting different responses around similar situations. If there is a particular example that needs follow up with public health, send a message to the COVID Inbox at <u>EDUCOVID@gov.mb.ca</u> Working with Public Health - It is important that continued messaging be provided that schools are making decisions under the advice, guidance and support of public health If a School Administrator or Superintendent feels that their issue/situation needs to be better addressed, please contact Cases in Schools. Manitoba Remote Learning Support Centre – EDU As of the end of last week (May 7th), there are 775 students in the centre – either direct from homeschool (238), or division referred (489) with the remaining involved with homeschool connectors. The Centre has EAs supporting students in after school programs, as well as French tutors. 23 divisions have referred students to the centre. 947 students have been engaged in the centre as of April 26th. The department has created some mental health and wellness resources for teachers which are linked in the MRLC portal. Many schools are implementing programs to support students – Thrival kits. As well, the province has provided funding and supports in the area of mental health and well-being. Fall Planning - EDU It is uncertain what the fall will look like and it is suggested that planning should be for a similar fall as 2020. Vaccine rollout and the efficacy of the vaccine and its impact on variants are the variables that determine the planning. The goal is to have all students in class for face-to-face instruction. The department will be providing funding information as soon as it's available. 		
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