

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

Item	Record of Discussion
<b>Review of Minutes/Action Items</b>	<p><b>Review of Minutes:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Important to reconvene to discuss, problem solve, and plan for this time period.</li> </ul>
<b>New Business</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Critical (Red) Level Response Urban Centres – EDU <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 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.</li> <li>○ 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.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• School Staffing Challenges During Restricted Level (Orange) – EDU <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The third wave has created challenges for school staffing with the requirements to self-isolate.</li> <li>○ How can further stress on the system be minimized? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Is it possible to use Senior High School students to assist?</li> <li>▪ Hire recent teacher grads or other new grads</li> <li>▪ Are there barriers to using teacher grads/LPT? If so, would it be possible to remove restrictions temporarily?</li> <li>▪ What about hiring internationally trained teachers?</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Action:</b> A small group with expertise on this matter should be convened to review the suggestions made.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• School Communities – Absenteeism/Symptomatic Staff and Students – EDU and <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Bulletin #10 outlines the process to allow school administrators to make decisions regarding moving to remote learning. Also, the Notification Support Team (<a href="mailto:casesinschools@gov.mb.ca">casesinschools@gov.mb.ca</a>) would be able to assist school administrators with this process.</li> <li>○ Hours are being adjusted to respond to the needs on the weekend. Queries need to be made to the cases in schools Inbox. The COVID Inbox is not manned on the weekend.</li> <li>○ 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.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Re-opening Plans – May 30, 2021 – EDU <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 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?</li> <li>○ It is important to give as much notice as possible regarding the re-opening of schools (2-3 days notice, if possible).</li> <li>○ Schools want to be open for the end of the year.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• PPE Discussion – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Seeking clarity regarding cloth masks vs. medical masks. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The department has done its best to provide the PPE that is recommended by public health officials.</li> <li>▪ 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 possible.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>

