

MEDIA RELEASE

Covid-19 Actions in Kelsey School Division

The KSD Board thanks the School Division teachers, CUPE staff, and senior administration for their patience and efforts during these last two weeks and going forward in this unprecedented time dealing with Covid-19.

Our decisions as a Division were and are driven by directives from Manitoba Education and Health. Teleconferences with all the Manitoba school divisions, education and government officials, and the Manitoba School Boards Association have provided needed advice and direction which have been very helpful. The future challenges in dealing with the pandemic have yet to be determined.

The challenge to maintain the education and learning of students currently falls on both teachers and parents. This will be demanding due to the need for communication (on line or by telephone) that is sometimes deficient. Teachers will do what they can to provide direction and support from home, and some materials if possible. We encourage parents to keep their children engaged in these opportunities and other various learning options. School playgrounds have been closed to encourage social distancing.

Among the situation updates received by KSD from government are the following:

- ! To date, there are no confirmed or presumptive Covid-19 cases for Manitoba students.
- ! Manitoba Education is actively planning around key decisions that are required to support the suspension of classes and prepare in the event that a longer closure is needed. Manitoba is establishing a COVID-19 response planning team with representation from key Kindergarten to Grade 12 stakeholder groups to establish timely and effective communication and decision making.
- ! Education is preparing learning resources for parents which will be available online and for teachers through MAPLE.
- ! Options for learning and assessment are being explored, including checking how other provinces are responding.
- ! A decision on provincial exams will be made over next few weeks. Also being explored are issues related to suspension of classes including how attendance will be tracked, and the impact on apprenticeship programs.
- ! Manitoba Education is working to develop a strategy for students without access to computers and/or internet, and students with special needs.

- ! Child care centres in schools are to be allowed to continue to operate if the centre elects to proceed with offering 16 or fewer spaces prioritizing parents in essential services and healthcare positions.
- ! The COVID-19 response planning working group with key stakeholders will consider separate assessment options for: K-8; credit attainment in Grades 9-11; and graduation. Decisions on provincial tests are forthcoming.
- ! Manitoba Education plans to build a framework to support school divisions and schools in developing plans for continued learning while classes are suspended.

For immediate release: March 24, 2020

For further information contact

Superintendent, KSD
204 623-6421