

## **COVID-19 K–12 Education**

### **Guidance on the Period of Remote Learning in January 2021**

Please find information regarding provincial plans mandated for learning after Christmas. We have provided excerpts of the information which will be of interest to parents/families based on the December 4<sup>th</sup> Circular from Manitoba Education.

We also ask that you read our school-based letter for further guidance and information regarding the learning period between January 4<sup>th</sup> to January 15<sup>th</sup>.

#### Background

On December 2, 2020, Manitoba Education announced remote learning expectations for the two-week period of January 4 to 15, 2021, as follows:

- Students in Grades 7 to 12 will be in remote learning.
- Parents and caregivers of Kindergarten to Grade 6 students will be provided the option of remote learning if they wish to keep their children at home.
- Regular, in-person classroom learning will occur during this period for Kindergarten to Grade 6 students.
- Any Grades 7 to 12 students with special learning needs and for students at risk can be accommodated in the school or classroom setting during this time. Please discuss plans with the school if your child will be in attendance.

#### Planning and Expectations

- All schools have developed remote learning plans according to their school community access and needs.
- As part of this planning, schools are required to ensure access to technology for students when needed or if possible.
- Schools can offer alternative solutions, such as print-based learning packages, to support remote learning where connectivity or access to technology is an issue.
- All schools will strive to achieve the remote learning standards to the greatest extent possible. However, it is recognized that real-time (synchronous) learning will not be possible in all instances, especially for Kindergarten to Grade 6, during this period of temporary remote learning.
- The number of instructional days will not be impacted by this period of remote learning.

#### Bussing

- There will be no changes to bus transportation at this time. Buses will follow the Restricted level (Orange) measures.

#### Programming for Students in Kindergarten to Grade 6

- Teachers will deliver regular, in-person classroom learning to Kindergarten to Grade 6 students attending school.
- Additionally, the option of remote learning will be available to Kindergarten to Grade 6 students between January 4 and 15, 2021 should this be requested. It will be important for families to communicate with their schools, if remote learning is being requested.

- Parents/caregivers should inform schools of their intent to have their child/ren participate in temporary remote learning ***no later than December 14, 2020.***
- Students whose parents choose the remote learning option will return to classroom learning on January 18, 2021.
- If families of students with special needs, or students at risk, choose remote learning, school teams will work with families through the student-specific planning process to accommodate and create plans to the best of their ability.

#### Programming for Students in Grades 7 to 12

- Teachers will deliver remote learning to all students in Grades 7 to 12.
- Students can be allowed to attend school for short periods of time for limited use of school facilities to connect to Wi-Fi, receive the online component of their remote programming, or access other services that may be needed.
- All public health measures under the Restricted level (Orange) must be followed when students are in the school.
- Schools will work with families of Grades 7 to 12 students who are at risk and students who have special needs, to determine appropriate programming in the school building or at home, as deemed appropriate. Student strengths and needs are varied and will continue to be addressed through the student-specific planning process in preparation for learning during this two-week period.
- Exceptions can be made as needed for students in Grade 7, who have not reached the age of 12 to attend the school and receive supervision by school staff to participate in remote learning. Please advise the school if this is a requirement for your family.
- Level 1 technical training that requires practical hands-on learning in facilities with an instructor for certification requirements can proceed where no remote option is available.