

## **Rosser School: Preparing to Welcome Our Students Back (2021-2022) September 1, 2021**

### **A. Introduction**

In-class learning will resume for Rosser School Grades 1-4 students on September 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021 and Kindergarten students on September 13<sup>th</sup>, 2021 in accordance with public health protocols and Manitoba Education's K-12 guidelines. Programming and school operations within ISD will be guided by the contents of Manitoba Education's publication entitled, *Protecting Manitobans: Restoring Safe Schools*.

The purpose of this document is to share how Rosser School plans to address specific school community areas to better prepare students, families, and staff for the return to school this fall. For clarity, these areas have been organized into the following three sections:

1. Student Learning Preparedness
2. Building Operation Preparedness
3. Student and Family Preparedness

#### **1. Student Learning Preparedness:**

a. *How will students be divided into cohorts?*

As per Manitoba Education guidelines, maximum cohort size is to be no more than 75 students. With a student population of less than 75 students, Rosser School will be considered 1 cohort of Kindergarten to Grade 4. This means that, following the recommendations from Manitoba Education, we are able to space students as much as possible, that students can be outside together, and that there can be some shared spaces. Interaction between students of each class will be kept to a minimum whenever possible.

b. *Will course offerings and timetables be affected?*

Course offerings will not be affected; however, Grade 3/4 students will not transfer to Grosse Isle School for physical education classes until further notice.

Timetables will not be altered for each class as the school is 1 cohort, however procedures implemented for school entry and exit, breaks and lunch hours, and class change schedules will remain in place to limit interaction between grades of students.

c. *How will the school address recovery learning and transition planning needs?*

Student assessment and transition planning for the 2021-2022 school year will emphasize and respond to recovery learning needs identified in June, 2021 report cards. Classroom teachers will conduct initial assessments in September to determine each student's knowledge in specific subject areas. Classroom teachers have also met with teachers from the previous grade to discuss subject material from that grade which may need to be addressed during recovery learning.

d. *How will breaks and recesses be coordinated?*

Students will line-up by class for entry and exit of the building. Hallway traffic will be minimized as much as possible. clear of other. Students will follow proper hand sanitization procedure at all times when entering and exiting the building. During both snack break and lunch break, students will either eat outside or remain in their desks to eat. Classes may be permitted to mix during organized outside activity events.

**All students** will be required to wear a non-medical mask **at all times** while inside the school building. "Mask breaks" will be permitted when students are eating or drinking at their desks or when students are physically distanced by a minimum of 2m and seated at the direction of the classroom teacher.

e. *Will extracurricular programs and activities be offered?*

Extracurricular programs and activities will be assessed throughout the school year on an individual basis to determine the school's capacity to meet all public health recommendations with the school-based resources available. Whole-school activities, such as team-building games, will take place in accordance with public health guidelines.

**2. Building Operations Preparedness:**

a. *How will the school plan for increased cleaning, sanitization, and hand hygiene?*

Increased frequency of cleaning, disinfecting and sanitizing, particularly high-touch surfaces and common/shared areas, will be required. Schedules of custodial staff will be adjusted as needed to ensure compliance with cleaning protocols.

Hand sanitizer, hand soap, and necessary cleaning supplies will be provided at the school. Hand sanitizing stations will also be set up at the two school entrances.

Classroom teachers will explain to students when to practice hand hygiene and remind them as necessary during the school day.

b. *What measures will be taken to encourage physical distancing in entrances, hallways, classrooms, and shared spaces?*

Schools will monitor common spaces to avoid congestion and will ensure students maintain space between them. Travel within the school will be limited as much as possible throughout the school day and enhanced cleaning/disinfection of common areas will be a priority for custodial staff. Students will have access to lockers/hooks in classrooms to store personal belongings. The use of lockers and hooks will follow current public health recommendations.

Floor decals will be used in hallways and classrooms to encourage physical distancing between students and posters will be visible to remind students and staff of necessary precautions to be followed.

Classroom teachers will plan seating arrangement in the classrooms to establish physical distancing to the greatest extent possible.

c. *How will classroom teachers remove or reduce the use of learning materials that cannot be sanitized?*

All students will have their own school supplies and classroom teachers have limited shared supplies as much as possible. Shared supplies will be sanitized before and after each individual uses them. At this point, it is our goal to ensure that, other than books, shared supplies have been limited and will be sanitized to the best of our abilities.

d. *What will be the process for arranging and carrying out student drop-offs and pick-ups?*

School bussing remains similar to last year although with some very important exceptions:

- Rosser and WCI students will wait in separately marked spots at the front of Grosse Isle school or will be asked to stay in their parent or guardian's vehicle until the buses arrive and they are marshalled onto the buses.
- Rosser 'bus stop' will be beside Grosse Isle's shed, and WCI students will have their 'bus stop' to the right of the front door
- No students from Rosser or WCI will be permitted into Grosse Isle School, as per ISD and Provincial directive.

In the situation that a student must be dropped off or picked up during the school day, parents will be asked to notify the school prior to their arrival. Once they have arrived at the school, they are to ring the front door bell and wait at the entrance to the school. A staff member will either greet the student and have them enter the school or will have the student ready for pick up. Students will sanitize their hands both upon entry and exit of the school.

e. *How will the school communicate and enact protocols for students and staff exhibiting symptoms at school?*

If a student becomes ill while at school, the child will be isolated in the Resource room located beside the office. Parents or caregivers will be notified to come and pick up their child immediately. Families will be required to have a plan in place for urgent student pick-up.

If the student is young and requires close contact and care while isolated, staff can continue to care for the child until the parent is able to pick the child up. Caregivers are to be mindful of hand hygiene and avoid contact with the respiratory secretions of the student. A medical mask is to be worn by the staff member caring for the child. If a staff member becomes symptomatic while at work, they should immediately isolate themselves from other staff and students, notify their supervisor, and go home to isolate. Staff are advised to contact *Health Links – Info Santé* (204-788-8200 or 1-888-315-9257) or their health care provider for direction.

Symptoms of Covid-19 are listed on the provincial website: [Province of Manitoba | Symptoms of COVID-19 \(gov.mb.ca\)](https://www.gov.mb.ca/health/healthlinks/symptoms-of-covid-19)

Families are also asked to screen their child prior to them attending school. The provincial screening tool is available at: [Screening Tool - Shared Health \(sharedhealthmb.ca\)](https://www.sharedhealthmb.ca/screening-tool)

This information will be communicated with families by email, newsletter, and will be available to access on the school website.

f. *What happens if someone tests positive from the school or the school community?*

There is no single answer to this questions and decisions will be made on a case-by-case basis with public health leading the response and providing guidance. As per the ISD Reopening Plan, in the event of a confirmed case of COVID-19 connected with a class, public health will advise staff and students if they have been in close contact, if they need to self-isolate or self-monitor, and when they can return to school.

### **3. Student & Family Preparedness:**

a. *How will expectations for attendance and participation be communicated with families?*

School attendance is mandatory for children aged 7 to 18 in Manitoba. All students are expected to participate fully in learning, even if/when remote learning is required. Teachers will only support learning at home for students who have been medically advised not to return to in-class learning due to COVID-related risk factors. Families who choose to homeschool their child(ren) are required to register for provincial homeschooling via Manitoba Education.

This information will be communicated with families in email format, newsletter, and will be available to access on the school webpage.

In the event of attendance or participation concerns with a student, phone conversations with the parents to address the situation will be the first course of action.

b. *How will the school share information about the importance of hand hygiene, symptom monitoring, and other public health measures?*

Classroom teachers will have discussions with their classes regarding the importance of hand hygiene, symptom monitoring, and other public health measures. They will explain how these topics apply to our school setting and what procedures we will follow throughout the school day to accommodate the guidelines.

Families will receive this information in email format and it will also be available to access on the school website. Please ensure that your email addresses connected to PowerSchool are current, as this is our main form of sharing school communication.

Signage throughout the school will promote the importance of these public health measures.

*c. What is the plan if a parent/guardian/volunteer visits the school?*

Visitors or volunteers are permitted at schools, but visits should be limited if possible. If a parent/guardian/volunteer is visiting the school they must adhere to self-screening, physical distancing and recommended hygiene practices. There will be a sign-in sheet kept at the front entrance to keep track of visitors to the school. All visitors will be required to use hand sanitizer provided at the front entrance of the school prior to entering and upon exit of the building. A non-medical face mask will be required for the duration of the visit. Visitors are required to self-screen for symptoms of Covid-19 prior to entering the school. The provincial self-screen tool is available at: [Screening Tool - Shared Health \(sharedhealthmb.ca\)](https://sharedhealthmb.ca)

*d. How will students, staff, and families access mental health and well-being supports?*

The school will communicate the local supports available and the process for accessing those supports to students and their families through email, by newsletter, and the information will also be available to access on the school website. School-based staff will also engage divisional student services supports and external service providers as needed.

Student will receive consistent check-ins from both homeroom teachers and the school guidance counsellor. The school principal will also provide support as needed for classroom teachers.

*e. How will input/feedback from parents on school operations and programming be gathered?*

Parents will have the opportunity to provide input and/or feedback regarding school operations and programming through open communication with the school principal by either email or phone conversations. The school principal will check in with each family during the first week of the return to school.

Weekly emails sent on Friday of each week from the principal will provide a review of the week in addition to a preview of the upcoming week.

*f. Will there be additional considerations for the first day that students return to school?*

Parents are asked not to enter the school with their child. We understand that this is an important day for both you and your child, but it is necessary to minimize the number of people who enter the building. If parents would like the opportunity to photograph their child prior to them entering the school, they will be asked to move to a designated spot at the front of the building.

**B. Additional Resources**

- Interlake School Division updates can be found [here](#).
- Current information from the government about COVID-19 in Manitoba can be found [here](#).
- More information on Manitoba Education's COVID-19 response can be found [here](#).
- Email inquiries about Rosser School's Re-Opening plan can be directed to: [mivany@isd21.mb.ca](mailto:mivany@isd21.mb.ca)