



# BRANDON SCHOOL DIVISION

April 24, 2020

## COVID-19 Update #13

While we work through this unprecedented time, the communications we are sending you are being created quickly as information comes in. With that in mind, please note that as the new information comes in, what might have been said in one communication may have changed in another. Our goal during this time is to keep the staff, students and parents of the Brandon School Division up to date with the latest information and ask for your patience as we work through this extraordinary time.

### Key Messages

- There are a total of 263 confirmed or presumptive COVID-19 cases in Manitoba.
- Manitoba Education has released a FAQ regarding COVID-19 and the Suspension of In-Class Instruction to help address your concerns. Manitoba Education will continue to update this resource regularly as information becomes available. Please see attached the English and French version of the FAQ.

### Grade calculations for grade 9 – 12 courses that were in progress at the time of suspension of classes

- Students in grade 9 – 12 will receive a final grade (a percentage) for each of their courses that were in progress at the time of suspension of classes. At a minimum, that grade will be equivalent to the grade they achieved in the T3 (mid-term) reporting period (known as their baseline mark).
- Every assessment that has been assigned and graded since the distance delivery began will be entered in T4 (final term/mark).
- For each assignment, marks should be entered according to the following chart:

Scenario A: student's assignment mark is equal to or higher than their baseline mark	Enter mark in PowerSchool	Impacts the final grade
Scenario B: student's assignment mark is lower than their baseline mark	Enter mark in PowerSchool, but code the assignment as "Exempt" for that student	Does not impact final grade, but the achievement level is recorded
Scenario C: student does not complete the assignment	Use code NHI (not handed in)	Does not impact final grade, but lack of completion is recorded

- Weighting of assessments may change from the original course outline during the remote learning.
- Classroom teachers will communicate the final summative expectations to students closer to the end of the semester. The mark guidelines apply to these assessments also.
- Students are expected to continue learning and to complete assignments.
- The goal of education is learning, not grades. The skills taught in each course are needed for subsequent courses. The knowledge and skills they acquire in all high school courses transfer to post-secondary schooling and future employment.
- Marks are available on PowerSchool or by contacting the School or Teacher directly.

*Accepting the Challenge*

## School Immunization Program

- As a result of the provincial response to the COVID-19 global pandemic and the announcement of the suspension of classroom learning indefinitely, Manitoba Health, Seniors and Active Livings announced that the school immunization program will be postponed for the remainder of the 2019/20 school year. The school immunization program primarily occurs in grade 6 and grade 8 and 9. Each regional health authority will develop plans to ensure that any children that are missing doses will be caught up in the 2020/21 school year. Parents who want their child's immunizations to be completed prior to the next school year, can contact their primary care provider. Questions about this or Manitoba's Immunization Program can be directed to the public health office: Brandon - Unit A5 - 800 Rosser Ave, Town Centre or 204-578-2500.

## Parent Resources

- The Education Endowment Foundation (EEF) is an independent charity established in 2011 to improve the educational attainment of pupils in schools. The EEF aims to support teachers and senior leaders by providing evidence-based resources designed to improve practice and boost learning.
- EEF has provided new resources to support schools and parents make the most of home learning. We have included some of the practical tips, based on the best available evidence, to help build great home learning routines.
- [7 Tips to Support Reading at Home for K-4 Parents](#)
  - Shared reading is a great way to develop children's language and communication and to boost their reading skills. Regular reading routines can offer lots of opportunities for learning during school closures. The following link provides 7 tips to support reading at home based on research and evidence. Please click here: [7 Tips to Support Reading at Home for K-4 Parents](#)
- [Supporting Daily Routines During School Closure](#)
  - Consistent routines are important for behaviour and well-being. The following links provides a video and checklist to assist you in finding a new rhythm during this time of remote learning.  
**Video** - [Supporting Daily Routines During School Closures](#)  
**Checklist** - [Supporting Home Learning Routines](#)

## Some Community Resources Available

- [Local Contacts](#)
  - Helping Hands Soup Kitchen, 111 7<sup>th</sup> Ave. 204-727-4635. Open daily from 12-1 pm for pick up only lunches
  - Samaritan House Food Bank, 820 Pacific Ave. 204-726-0758. Open daily 9-11 am, and 1-3 pm, Tuesday also has an evening option from 4-6 pm (by appointment only). If you have never used the hamper program, you need to attend on a Monday or Friday during the above hours, with your MB Health card and complete a registration.
  - Salvation Army 204-727-6271.
  - Child and Adolescent Treatment Centre 1-866-403-5459 or 204-578-2700.
  - Westman Crisis Services 1-888-379-7699.
- [Additional Contacts](#)
  - Kids Help Phone 1-800-668-6868 or text Connect To 686868.
  - Health Links at 1-888-315-9257.
  - First Nations and Inuit Hope for Wellness Helpline 1-855-242-3310.
- [Links to Social Emotional Resources for Children](#)
  - Social Story - <https://www.flipsnack.com/KeshetChicago/coronavirus-social-story/full-view.html>
  - Kids Help Phone - <https://kidshelpphone.ca/get-info/were-here-for-you-during-covid-19-novel-coronavirus/>

## Internet Safety

- The Canadian Centre for Child Protection (Canadian Centre) is offering resources and information to help keep families, schools, child-serving organizations, and, most importantly, children safe during this unprecedented time. With school closures due to COVID-19, children who are at home will potentially have more unrestricted time online. The Canadian Centre, through its program Cybertip.ca, is urging families to have conversations about internet safety and to work together to implement strategies that ensures everyone's digital well-being.

### What can parents do?

- Have regular conversations about online safety. This includes talking about the online games your kids are playing, the apps they're using, and who they are chatting with. For tips on how to get the discussion started, visit [protectkidsonline.ca](https://protectkidsonline.ca) for age-appropriate ideas.
- Set the expectation you will monitor your child's online activities, and work together to establish guidelines around texting, social media, live streaming, and gaming, such as who your child can do these things with and on what apps.
- Become familiar with, or revisit the parental controls on computers, phones, and tablets. Some devices allow parents to limit access to specific apps, social media sites, internet content, and features available within the device.
- For younger children, help them create their login, password, and profile information, ensuring it is set to private. For tweens and teens, know their username/character name and password, as well as the email address used to sign up for apps/games/social accounts.
- Help tweens/teens set up privacy settings in apps/games/social accounts. With a private account, users can approve or deny followers/friends, restrict who can view their content and profile information, and limit incoming messages to followers/friends only. Work together to decide who to accept as followers/friends.
- Tell your child that if they come across something or someone while chatting/messaging/texting that makes them feel uncomfortable, they can tell you without fear of getting in trouble or losing online privileges. Remind them that their safety is what is most important to you.
- If you see, read, or hear anything sexual from an adult towards your child online, report it to Cybertip.ca.
- For more emerging online safety considerations and contact information should you have a question or concern about a child online, visit their COVID-19 response site: <https://protectchildren.ca/en/resources-research/supporting-you-through-covid-19/>

**"Our true work is not our job, that is what we do, not what we were created to do. Our true work is to look after each other, to protect each other and to be of benefit to one another."**

***Bill Gates***