



BRANDON SCHOOL DIVISION

March 31, 2020

Dear Brandon School Division Staff, Students and Families,

I am writing this to both our internal and external audiences as if we are all one big family and addressing everyone in the same manner. This is an update related to the provincial response to COVID-19 and the work we are doing daily with Manitoba Education, Manitoba School Boards Association and Manitoba Association of School Superintendents. Our collective goal is to support our students, our staff, our families, and our community. We are committed to giving you updates as more information becomes available.

On Thursday, March 26, 2020, the Chief Provincial Public Health Officer indicated that it is not realistic for classes to resume in two weeks from now and, as such, planning is underway for longer term suspension of in-class learning. Further clarification from Public Health officials is expected this week.

On Monday, March 23, in an effort to help limit the spread of COVID-19 virus and assist with social distancing efforts, the Manitoba School Board Association recommended all play structures and equipment on division property be closed. The Brandon School Division has put signage on all outdoor playground equipment, asking the public to not use it. Thank you for your cooperation in making your children aware of not using the playground equipment until further notice.

As parents, guardians, and caregivers, we understand the additional pressure of trying to educate your child or children from home. Please be assured that while your children are at home, we do not expect you to become experts at home schooling or have full responsibility for teaching your children. Manitoba Education has created a Response Planning Team that has six working groups to address the many aspects of planning and coordination in case the suspension of classes is extended. These working groups will be providing guidelines for school divisions, as they plan to continue offering supplemental learning opportunities to support student learning.

I know there are a lot of questions about high school students in particular, and how this suspension will impact their final grades. Again, I am asking for all of your patience as we work through this. I promise we will inform you once there is a plan and we have more details.

All of our families are going through challenging times right now and we need to be kind and supportive of one another as we face these challenges each and every day. Our staff are committed to working through this situation and I can't thank them enough for the level of energy demonstrated while they are adapting to their personal situations and their professional challenges. As we move forward, please know we are working hard to prepare meaningful material to support your child's learning.

Be kind to one another and look after yourself and your loved ones.

Dr. Marc D. Casavant
Superintendent/CEO
Brandon School Division

Accepting the Challenge