



BRANDON SCHOOL DIVISION

March 16, 2020

COVID-19 Update #3

Brandon School Division is continually monitoring this highly fluid situation and its impact on the staff, students, parents and the community. We are in constant communication with health authorities and the provincial government and will be providing daily updates through our website/social media platforms.

Class Suspension and Remote Delivery for Learning

- On March 13th, 2020, Manitoba Education announced the suspension of in class learning effective March 23rd, 2020. This announcement was made to allow time for families and educators to plan for alternative arrangements while the number of COVID-19 cases remain low.
- Brandon School Division is working on preparing materials and exploring tools to deliver education remotely.
- Brandon School Division will be communicating with schools within 24 hours to provide further clarity on remote delivery options.
- Parents should expect communication from their school and/or classroom teachers within 48 hours regarding remote delivery for programming.
- We anticipate that communication will be on-going and our remote delivery options may change as the COVID-19 situation continues to develop.
- The remote delivery options will be dependent on the grade level of the student and the subject matter.

Student and Staff Travel and Extra Curricular Activities

All student and staff travel as well as booking of future travel, is suspended until further notice given the COVID-19 situation and the implications for travel. In an effort to prevent, manage, and isolate the spread of COVID-19 and limit the spread of the virus, Brandon School Division has cancelled the following events until further notice:

- Public special events in Brandon School Division schools or buildings;
- All facility rentals by outside groups;
- Arts performances and practices
- Sporting games and practices;
- All clubs;
- All off site travel (day trips, overnight trips, out of Province trips and International trips including into the United States);
- Job Shadowing or Apprenticeship / Work Placement for students in the community;
- School assemblies; and
- Staff Professional Development.

Accepting the Challenge

Child Care

We know that the rapidly evolving situation around COVID-19 has been challenging. We want to update you on the most current information and the government's decision that child care facilities should remain open.

In consultation with Chief Provincial Public Health Officer, child care facilities do not need to pause or suspend services at this time. Many of your existing regulatory requirements support social distancing, such as:

- Group sizes that set out how many children can be gathered together, and
- Useable indoor floor area required per license space in centres (3.3 square meters).

Due to the smaller number of children in child care centres, as compared to schools, and considering these standards, at this time the risk has been assessed as low.

Preventative Measures

As of March 16, 2020, Public Health Officials are recommending all international travellers should self-isolate and self-monitor for symptoms for 14 days after returning to Canada. Please visit <http://www.manitoba.ca/covid19/> regularly for updated information.

Public health officials continue to recommend social distancing measures for all Manitobans including:

- Cancelling or postponing any large-scale events (events with more than 250 attendees);
- Minimizing prolonged (more than 10 minutes), close (less than two metres) contact between individuals in public;
- Avoiding greetings that involve touching such as handshakes;
- Disinfecting frequently used surfaces;
- Avoiding all non-essential travel, as well as crowded places and events.

We understand that this is a difficult situation and that we ask our parents for their patience and understanding as we work through all the challenges that may arise. Please see the attached resource on Talking to Children About COVID-19 (Coronavirus) A Parent Resource.