



BRANDON SCHOOL DIVISION

March 27, 2020

COVID-19 Update #9

Brandon School Division is continually monitoring this highly fluid situation and its impact on staff, students, parents and the community. We are in constant communication with health authorities and the provincial government and will be providing an update once a week, on Friday in the late afternoon. The update will continue to be provided through SchoolMessenger, the Brandon School Division website and our social media platforms.

Key Message

- There are currently 1.5 billion students across the world that are not in school right now.
- The Manitoba government announced today that they have partnered with Morneau Shepell to create a digital Mental Health Therapy Program for people that are dealing with anxiety caused by COVID-19. The online counselling program is expected to be available in two weeks time and will be available on the government's online COVID-19 portal.
- Health, Seniors and Active Living Parents report that most Community Living disABILITY Services (CLDS) and Children's disABILITY Services (CDS) staff are working away from the office. Participants, families and service providers involved with these programs can continue to contact their community service workers via telephone and email to plan for services and staff are continuing to monitor their phone messages.
- An important resource to highlight is the Kids Help Phone: **1-800-668-6868 or text Connect To 686868**. They have reported a 54% increase in services within Manitoba for their counselling and texting service since March 10. Nationally, 77% of texters had not used the service previously and 99% indicated that they felt better after the conversation. The most common words in conversations about COVID-19 have been school, worried, anxious, quarantine, news.

Message from the Superintendent/CEO

- Our next communication will be April 9, unless something happens next week that we need to communicate with you.

We understand that this is a difficult time and we thank everyone for their patience and understanding as we work through this challenging situation. If you have any questions at all, please contact your school's administration.

Accepting the Challenge