

November 19, 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians,

The health and well-being of our students and their families remains our top priority, so we'd like to provide an update about some changes that are on the horizon, along with a friendly reminder not to overlook the basics.

Public Health orders

New Public Health orders will come into effect on December 6, 2021, requiring proof of vaccination for indoor recreational (extracurricular) sports for 12–17 year olds.

Participants must provide proof of at least one dose of COVID-19 vaccine or proof of a negative rapid test within 72 hours prior to entering the facility. The negative test must come from a participating pharmacy and be confirmed by a pharmacist (not at a provincial testing site). Proof of one dose of the vaccine will be the printout from Shared Health: <https://sharedhealthmb.ca/covid19/test-results/>

Proof of vaccination or rapid testing is not required for physical education classes or any other physical activity that is part of the provincial curriculum. However, in keeping with recommendations and messaging from Public Health and Manitoba Education, we strongly encourage all those who are eligible to be vaccinated against COVID-19.

As a division, we are collaborating with our partners in Public Health and Manitoba Education to work out the details related to the implementation of this requirement. As we know more, we will share updates with you.

COVID-19 Vaccination for 5–11 year olds

It's anticipated that Health Canada will approve COVID-19 vaccination for 5–11 year olds in the very near future.

Vaccination for 5–11 year olds will be available in First Nations and urban Indigenous communities and at physicians/pediatricians, pharmacists, regional public health clinics, in-school clinics (with parental consent but without parent or guardian present), and after-school community clinics (open to any family/community members).

Once the status of the vaccine clinics for 5–11 year olds is determined, following the lead of Public Health, we will share relevant information.

Refocus on the fundamentals

As part of our efforts to make our schools as safe as possible, we need everyone to refocus on the fundamentals. It is imperative that we self-monitor for symptoms, stay home when sick, wear masks, distance to the greatest extent possible, and employ hand hygiene.

Recent COVID modelling is painting a concerning picture—we can alter this outcome with a collective effort. Let's keep the fundamentals at the forefront to help ensure our schools stay open for in person learning.

Thank you for your patience and co-operation as we try to enjoy some sense of normalcy, as safely as possible, heading into the holiday season. Please do not hesitate to contact your child's school with questions or concerns.

Sincerely,



Kelly Barkman
Superintendent/CEO