

# Our Lady of Victory School Re-opening Plan for the 2020/21 School Year

## Manitoba's Restoring Safe Schools

Last Updated: August 26, 2020

### **Planning for Re-opening**

School will reopen for teachers and staff on September 2, 2020, with students returning on September 8, 2020. At this time, **all students are expected to return to in-class learning**. Remote learning will not be offered. If parents do not feel comfortable sending their children to school, they must pursue Home Schooling. It is understandable that parents have many questions and concerns regarding the return to in-class learning. The purpose of this document is to communicate with students and parents our plan for safe and healthy return to school for the 2020-2021 school year in relation to the pandemic. As you read this plan, our hope is that it will help to reassure our parents as they prepare for the new school year. Advice from the Chief Provincial Public Health Officer and Manitoba Education will continue to guide our planning and the decisions we make throughout the school year.

### **General Planning Considerations**

This plan is based on the most current information available and is subject to change. Schools must follow existing public health requirements and educational priorities as identified by **Public Health** and **Manitoba Education**. Existing guidelines, considerations and conditions of preparedness outlined in *Welcoming Our Students Back: Restoring Safe Schools (Stage 2)*, as well as those previously established for *Limited Use of School Facilities* and *Day Camps, COVID-19 Pandemic: Return to School Canadian Physical and Health Education Guidelines, Learning and Joy in the Pandemic: Manitoba Kindergarten Practice Resource, and Guidelines for Transportation to Schools* have helped inform this plan.

### **Pandemic Response Team**

A Pandemic Response Team has been established which includes the school's administrative team and representation from the staff. The school principal, in collaboration with the Pandemic Response Team, will stay current with evolving Public Health Orders and communicate these to the school community as necessary. Staff have been informed of developments through the summer and will be provided with specific training on existing Public Health Orders, symptom management and sanitizing protocols prior to the start of the 2020-21 school year. As classes return to school, classroom teachers will teach new processes to students and reinforce these messages frequently.

### **School – Protocols and Procedures**

We return to school with caution. There are many changes to keep everyone as safe as possible. Below you will find what we will be implementing or the changes we have made in various areas of the school.

#### **Self-Screening**

Before parents send their child on the school bus or to school, they are to self-screen at home. If you answered yes to any of the questions, you must keep your child at home. Use Health Links (call or online) to get recommendations such as whether a Covid19 test is required. If you do go for a Covid19 test, share the results with the school before your child returns to school.

If a student does show symptoms, parents will be asked to pick them up immediately. While waiting, the student will wait in the lunchroom in a designated area away from other students.

#### **Academics**

With near normal conditions, the learning expectation would be regular programming to the fullest extent possible. With more time given to protocols (ie. sanitization, social distancing, congestion, handwashing, etc.), there may be less time for learning. In light of this, priority for core subjects will be given (Math, ELA, Science, and Social Studies) with a secondary focus on religion and Phys. Ed. French and the Arts will have the lowest priority.

Some other changes effect subjects such as music as well as O'Canada as we are not allowed to singing in confined spaces and therefore no choir at this time. Gym will be outside as much as possible and when inside activities to minimize contact and equipment will occur. Churchill High School is allowing us to use their track and field. Changing into gym clothes for gym will not be permitted at this time. Plans for grade 7&8 Industrial Arts & Home Economics (Shops) have not be finalized. At this time, arriving before and leaving after other cohorts of Churchill students is the initial plan.

Recovering learning may need to occur. All students will continue to be assessed once in-class learning resumes in September and lessons will be adjusted accordingly. Resource and clinician support will be available for students who need special services.

The government does expect all students to attend school in September. If you choose to stay home, no work will be provide for that student. However, if the student is sick then homework will be posted for core subjects through Google Classrooms as much as possible.

### **Remote Learning**

It may be possible that we will move to remote learning like we did at the end of school in April of 2020. In preparation for this possibility, students will receive lessons on Google Suite (Google: Classrooms, Drive, Docs, Slides, YouTube, etc.). The use of school provide email address is mandatory for Grades 1 to 8. Other online programs will also be taught which may include See Saw, Doc Hub, etc. Students will be asked to submit a minimum of 1 remote assignment each week to practice these remote learning skills. Please contact the school if you are in need of technology and we will see what we can do for you.

### **The Classroom**

For Kindergarten to Grade 2, flower tables have been modified with table top barriers as an alternative to keeping a 1 metre distance between students. Carpets and other excess furniture have been taken out to allow for more space between students.

For Grade 3 to 8, standing barriers have been created to group 4 or more desks together with some table top barriers on a few tables in grade 7 & 8. Carpets and other excess furniture have been taken out to allow for more space between students.

Communal supplies such as crayons has been reduced or eliminated to reduce shared items. Student face to face interaction for extended periods will also be reduced.

### **Masks or Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)**

While inside the classroom or hallway, Grades 3 to 8 will need to wear masks. The government has mandated that grades 4 and up are to wear masks but due to our combined classroom for grade 3/4, we are asking grades 3 to wear masks as well. Students **will not** need to wear the mask for eating their lunch, gym class, or recess.

On the bus, **all students** will wear masks. The government has mandated that grades 4 and up are to wear masks but to ensure the safest ride possible we are asking all students to wear masks.

Students on the bus and those in Grade 3 and up should bring 2 masks with them to school. The school will have some masks on hand in case a student has forgotten or their mask is no longer usable. Masks should be kept in a sealable bag or container.

Staff will be wearing masks while teaching or interacting with students or visitors.

Designs on masks must be appropriate for all ages: no scary images, weapons, mature/inappropriate words/images, etc.

Cloth masks should be washed daily.

### **Cohorts**

Students will be grouped into cohorts. (Cohorts is another word for a group of people). The purpose of cohorts is to limit the mixing of students and staff so that, if a child or employee develops an infection, there are fewer possible exposures and contact tracing can be more easily done. The maximum size of a cohort is 75 students.

Students may have be in 2 cohorts: a bus and a school cohort. Students in a cohort will stay together and avoid interactions with other cohorts. This includes before school and at recess.

We have group the students into 4 groups:

Cohort 1 - Kindergarten, Homeroom A & B

Cohort 2 - Homeroom C & D

Cohort 3 - Homeroom E & F

Cohort 4 - Homeroom G & H

### **Bus**

Students are allowed to sit next to each other if they are in the same family or cohort. A seating plan is in place. Parents will be notified before the start of school about bus times and where their child will sit. The bus will also be labeled with the seating plan before the start of school. When possible and as weather permits, windows and/or roof vents will be opened to allow for increased ventilation.

**All students** will wear masks. The government has mandated that grades 4 and up are to wear masks but to ensure the safest ride possible we are asking all students to wear masks. The driver will wear a face shield or mask.

When students arrive at school, they will join their in-school cohort.

Parents are encouraged to drive their children to and from school and not use the school bus. If you are able to do so and would like to, please contact the office.

### **Arrival to School**

When students arrive at school, they are to join their in-school cohort and go to their designated **Zone**. The playground will be divided into at least 4 zones. Zones are used to keep cohorts from interacting with each other. A sign will indicate which cohort is in which zone.

When it is time to line up, homerooms have been labeled on the play structures wood frame. Each homeroom will line up 2 metres apart.

### **Entering and Exiting School**

3 doorways will be used for entering and exiting: main school entrance, gym doors entrance, and North door facing the cemetery. Cohorts will use specific doors throughout the day to reduce congestion and interaction with other cohorts. Students will keep as much physical distancing within their cohort to the greatest extent possible when entering and exiting the school.

### **Recess**

With the use of zones, students will play with those in their cohort keeping as much physical distance as possible. Each classroom will have their own recess equipment. Recess time continues to be staggered with some changes as follows:

10:00-10:15 – Kindergarten, Homeroom A and B  
10:15-10:30 – Homeroom C, D, E, and F  
11:50-12:15 – Homeroom C, D, E, and F  
12:15-12:35 – Kindergarten, Homeroom A, B, G, and H  
1:50-2:05 – Kindergarten, Homeroom A and B  
2:05-2:20 – Homeroom C, D, E, and F

### **Lunch**

Students will eat inside their classrooms. We will not supply any forks or spoons to students. There will be no hot lunch program at this time (ie. Pizza Lunch, Hot Dogs, etc.). Students are expected to stay at school and eat their lunch.

### **Bathrooms**

Thanks to the parish, we have 5 bathrooms to use: 2 girl bathrooms, 2 boy bathrooms, and 1 family bathroom. Grades 5 to 8 will use the parish bathrooms in the back of the lunchroom, Kindergarten will use the family bathroom in the lunchroom, and Grades 1 to 4 will use the school bathrooms. Student interaction will be kept to a minimum. Touchless faucets have been installed in some bathrooms and eventually they will be installed in all bathrooms.

### **Water Bottles**

Water fountains are constantly used and germs are transmitted often from them. We now have 3 water fountains that are for water bottle filling. We require all students to have a water bottle at school.

### **Hallway**

Timetabling and designated entrances and exits will help reduce congestion in the hallways. The use of water bottles will keep students in their classrooms and cut down on the spread of germs. We will have directional traffic indicators on the floor to help keep physical distance between students.

Teachers will move between classes rather than students to the greatest extent possible. If students do need to move between classrooms, students will wait in the coat room until the other class has come in before leaving which leaves the hallway congestion to a minimum. Students only move from one class to another if they are in the same cohort.

### **Libraries**

Each classroom has their own classroom library. Students are allowed to borrow books but when they are returned they will be placed in a pile/bin for 3 days before going back on the shelf. We also have Raz Kids for online books to read.

### **Dismissal**

Students will be dismissed at 3:15pm. Cohort 1 (Kindergarten, Homeroom A & B) will be let out first then Cohort 2, then 3, and then 4. As the majority of our students are on the bus, cohorts will be released once the previous

cohort has almost all boarded the bus. Parents are asked to wait at least 4 metres from the door to prevent congestion when students are leaving.

### **Before and After School Program**

We are still having the *Before and After School Program*. It starts at 7am and goes to 5:30pm. The Before School Program will be in the gym. The After School Program will be in the lunchroom. Students will be kept together based on family or by cohort.

### **Cleaning and Disinfecting**

Our building staff will increase their cleaning and disinfecting regimen, with more frequent cleaning of washrooms and high touch surfaces. An electrostatic sprayer will be used, especially for shared items such as manipulatives and toys. High touch surfaces including handrails, push-releases, counters and light switches will be cleaned with greater frequency. Hand sanitizer, cleaning supplies and disinfectant have been secured for this purpose and will be restocked as needed.

### **Hand Hygiene**

All entrances and rooms are equipped with hand sanitizer. Anyone entering the building will be expected to wash their hands or use hand sanitizer. It is preferred that students will wash hands with soap but when hand washing cannot be done, then hand sanitizer will be used.

Students will be taught proper handwashing technique and other good hygiene techniques. Students will wash their hands when they come in at the start of the day, before and after recess, before and after mass, before and after eating, and after blowing nose.

### **Morning Snack**

We will continue to run our morning snack but we will not include apples and bananas at this time. We will continue to provide yogurt and granola bars to those students who come to school hungry.

### **Morning Exercise Program**

Our morning exercise program will be postponed at this time.

### **Mass**

We will not have school mass, however, we will have mass for individual cohorts for Grades 3 to 8 at least once per month. There will be no singing. Students will sit 2 metres apart as much as possible. The few parishioners coming to mass will use the side entrance and sit off to the side away from students.

### **Extra-curricular Activities and School Sports**

Students within their own cohort may participate in intramurals and other activities. Volleyball season has been cancelled at this time. Running club and cross-country will continue. As the year progresses, there will be updates given about activities and sports.

### **Mental Health and Well-being**

For staff and students, mental health is very important. There will be a big focus on strategies to deal with all the new changes and with possible upcoming changes. Student Services is prepared for whole and small group discussions as well as 1 on 1 sessions for those classrooms or individuals who may need it. We will be educating students on Covid19 as well as best practices on how to reduce the risk of getting it.

### **Positive Cases of Covid19 in our School**

If there is a positive case linked to a class, public health will lead the response and will provide guidance. Public health will advise staff and students if they have been in close contact, if they need to self-isolate, or self-monitor,

and when they can return to school. Decisions about school or class closures will be made on a case-by-case basis with public health leading the response.

**Visitors and Parents**

At this time, we want to reduce the risk to students and staff and are requesting no visitors at this time. We would also like to keep parents out of the school and office. Try as much as possible to make phone calls and use the agenda to communicate with the teacher or office.

**Payment**

At this time, we would like to minimize the use of cash. Pre-Authorized Debit payments would be preferred. This would keep face to face visits down and reduce the spreading of germs. If cash is accepted it would be kept in a sealable bag for at least 3 days before touching it.