



St. Maurice School Inc.

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RE-OPENING PLANS FOR SEPTEMBER 2020

VERSION 1.2, Current to September 3, 2020

Notable Updates, Changes, Additions, Corrections since the previous version:

Addition - First Day of School information:

Grades 7-12: Students should come to school on September 8th with their backpack including their lunch, their two masks, some pens, pencils, a loose leaf paper, and the like – just enough to get started. They will go directly to their homeroom classroom to be seated by their teacher. Students will be assigned their lockers in small groups directed by the homeroom teacher at some point during the first day.

Addition – Masks:

Masks can be of any colour or pattern but must be appropriate for school (no images of skulls, guns, etc.), and must seal snugly against the face (nose, cheeks, chin).

Every person (students in grades 4 to 12 and all staff members) should bring with them **two** non-medical masks each day. Ideally, these would both be re-useable cloth masks. If using disposable masks, your child would require 2 disposable masks per school day. The student is to arrive at the school wearing one of their masks and carrying the other in a sealed ziplock bag labelled “Clean” or “C”, and placed in their school backpack. A second ziplock bag must be sent in the backpack as well, labelled “Dirty” or “D”. When a mask change is called for, the person will place the used mask in the “Dirty” ziplock bag, and take out their second mask from the “Clean” ziplock bag. The second mask is worn until the student leaves from the school for home. Re-useable masks will need to be washed in hot soapy water before being sent to school with your child the next day.

Parents of children in Kindergarten to Grade 3 who choose to send their child to school wearing a mask will also be expected to follow all of the protocols described above.

Additions specific to Grades 7-12:

- Microwaves ovens cannot be made available.
- Students in Grades 7&8 will not be permitted to leave the property for lunch, even with their parent’s permission. The parent may pick up their child for lunch; they will need to remain outdoors, call the school office (204-453-4020) and their child will be sent out to meet them.
- Each student in 7-12 should bring their own small bottle of hand sanitizer to be kept in their backpack. For reasons of safety, younger children are not advised to have their own sanitizer; every teacher will have a sanitizer bottle for use in their classroom.
- Families with students who are attending grades 7-12 should be dropped off some distance from the school to decrease congestion in the parking lot – not only of vehicles, but of people

trying to remain socially distanced. Older students can certainly walk a short distance to the school property.

- Grade 7&8 students will enter and exit using the brown doors of the parish. If not attending the before/after study hall, they are expected to wait, socially-distanced, **in designated areas along the north side of the church and on the public sidewalk north of the school parking lot (along Manahan Avenue).**
- **Lockers will be used for outerwear only (jacket, outdoor shoes, boots), not for books, binders or storage. All school supplies, books, binders, and the student's lunch and masks must be kept in their own backpack.**
- Although the 7&8 and 9-12 students will be permitted to enter the school and go to their own desk in their cohort study hall room as early as 7:30 am, it is the expectation that only students who have a reason for such an early arrival will be coming to school before 8:45 am (remember that the homeroom bell now rings at 9:00 am to start the day). This expectation is the same for the after school study time of 3:45 to 5:00 pm. The Administration will be verifying with the student and/or their parent the reason(s) why the student is needing to arrive between 7:30 and 8:45 am and to leave between 4:00 and 5:00 pm. Students without just cause for arriving early or leaving late will not be permitted to do so.
- Students attending the before and/or after school study halls must remain in their own name-labelled assigned desk, with their mask on at all times.

Correction:

The first full day for all Kindergarten students together will be Friday, September 18th

Note to the parents who have submitted requests for the accommodation for remote learning arising from the advice of their child's health care provider: The School Administration will respond to your request as soon as possible, but only after the overall plans for the re-opening of the School have been implemented. Please see the information below in the section titled "Attendance at School".

Overall re-opening plans for St. Maurice School (the most recent changes appear in blue)

The teachers and staff of St. Maurice School are eagerly looking forward to welcoming our returning students and those students new to our school to classroom learning in September 2020! Although we are all apprehensive about the re-opening of schools amid the COVID-19 pandemic, we also know that the education of our children is very important and needs to be timely; we cannot postpone or suspend indefinitely the learning opportunities which are best addressed at particular ages and stages of development and most successfully engaged in a classroom environment. We will all have to work together to continue to find solutions in our return to classroom schooling. We will take direct guidance from Manitoba Education and Public Health and will implement the recommendations within the physical and practical context of St. Maurice School. This re-opening plans document will describe the most notable strategies and approaches which will be in place at St. Maurice School to minimize the risks of transmission of the coronavirus which causes COVID-19 among persons in our school community.

Manitoba Education has recently released a number of documents and FAQs for schools and parents. These are excellent resources for all stakeholders to review about the re-opening of Manitoba schools in general. The document you are currently reading will reference those official planning guides; direct links to the provincial information releases are provided on the school website (www.stmaurice.mb.ca); just click on the button named “NEW: School Re-opening Plans 2020-21”. Note that this St. Maurice School re-opening plans document will identify and describe some specifics for re-opening which are particular to St. Maurice School. Such specific considerations for implementation of the re-opening guidelines are caused by such factors as building and classroom configurations, courses and programs offered, situations unique to some grade levels in our K-12 school, and so on.

This St. Maurice School planning document, currently existing as Version 1.0, will no doubt evolve as the COVID-19 situation changes, as consultations continue to occur with various governing bodies, and as implementations begin with teachers and staff before the start date for students. There may be questions not yet asked, and responses not yet developed which will need to be considered, researched and integrated into the return to schooling plans. The most updated version of this school plans document will be posted to the website as changes or additions are made. Should an unexpected significant change be made from an existing version, the Administration will also email that information to parents/guardians and school staff. All members of the St. Maurice School community are strongly encouraged to visit the school website regularly to check for updates to the school-specific plans, as these are all subject to change.

As of August 15, 2020, the following are the most updated publications regarding schools provided by Manitoba Education with direction from public health. All members of our school community are recommended to review these documents, beginning with those noted with * below, as St. Maurice School will be working to implement the recommendations provided therein. Links to these documents will be available from the “School Re-Opening Plans 2020-21” button on the St. Maurice School website’s homepage.

**MB Parents Frequently Asked Questions, Aug 7*

**MB Parents Frequently Asked Questions, Aug 13*

**MB Guide for Parents, Caregivers and Students, Aug 13*

**MB Restoring Safe Schools - Face Masks etc, Aug 13*

MB K-12 Guidelines for September 2020, July 30

MB K-12 Practice Guidance and Protocols, Aug 13

Here are some of the specific details as these Restoring Safe Schools guidelines, recommendations and suggestions are planned for and implemented at St. Maurice School:

Re-Opening Timeline

- St. Maurice School Teachers will have a full day of planning meetings on September 2, 2020.
- All school staff will have planning meetings on September 3, and will finalize campus preparations on September 4.
- Students in Grades 1 to 12 will begin in-school classes on Tuesday, September 8, 2020.
- Parents of students entering Kindergarten will be contacted by email or telephone call from their child's teacher with a meeting time for a brief discussion between the teacher, the parent(s) and the child. The School begins the Kindergarten year with a staggered start, where half of the class attends school on alternate days until the whole class sessions begin on **September 18th**.

Attendance at School

- Manitoba Education and St. Maurice School expects that students attend at school for classroom instruction beginning in September 2020.
- Remote learning is ***not*** an option which can be requested as choice, but will be emplaced for students who are *medically advised not to return to in-class learning due to COVID-related risk factors*.
- Exceptional medical circumstances may warrant that a child stay home and remote learning be provided in some fashion. Parents with a medically advised request for remote learning are asked to contact a St. Maurice School Administrator by email after August 24th. Situations will be assessed and planned for on a case-by-case basis.
- Remote learning is not an available option for parents to choose; in-class school programming is the expectation of Manitoba Education at this time. “Remote learning will be in place for students who are *medically advised not to return to in-class learning due to COVID-related risk factors*. These situations should be rare and limited to children with compromised immune systems or other medical conditions that increase their risk. Parents and caregivers must consult with physicians on the need for an accommodation.” Please provide the physician’s written note to a school office, either scanned and emailed to office@stmaurice.mb.ca or faxed to 204-452-4050, and the Administration will connect with the parent(s) to make plans for the remote learning accommodation.
- Parents will be expected to screen their child for symptoms of COVID-19 or flu-like symptoms each day before bringing them to school. Please use the Province of Manitoba’s screening tool, available online at <https://sharedhealthmb.ca/covid19/screening-tool/>, OR see a single-page version of the screening tool included on the school website; click on the button named “NEW: School Re-opening Plans 2020-21”, and then click for the “*Screening Questionnaire*”. An up-to-date list of symptoms can be found at: <https://www.gov.mb.ca/covid19/about/index.html>
- Parents and caregivers are responsible for their own child’s self-screening before they come to school. School staff may conduct screening for children while they are at school. Parents will be advised of any observed symptoms, and the parents will be contacted to pick up their child should there be cause for concern per the screening tool.

School Hours

- K to 6 classes will run from 8:30 am to 3:15 pm. Students will enter and exit the school using assigned doors designated for their grade level.

- All Grade 7 to 12 classes will be time-shifted to start 15 minutes later than previously. The 7-12 homeroom period will begin at 9:00 am (rather than 8:45), and the school day will end at 3:45 pm. All class times, the lunch break, and the bells schedule will be shifted to 15 minutes later; this will permit for fewer issues with student arrivals/departures across all of the grades.
- Opening exercises for the main campus (grades 1-12) will be held over the PA at 9:00 am. We will play (but not sing) O Canada, read the morning announcements (including regular COVID safety reminders), and join as community (silently) in the morning prayer.

Before and After School Time

- Students will not be permitted to loiter in the school buildings at all or to wait long before school opens or for their ride home after school.
- Parents MUST make timely arrangements to have their child/ren arrive not more than a few minutes before their designated entry time, and they must ensure that their child/ren are picked up very soon after the end of the school day (3:15 pm for K-6 and now 3:45 pm for 7-12).
- The School intends to have the high school parking lot volunteers working before and after school to assist in the safe movement of students and vehicles; however, the parking lot volunteers will not be able to assist children into/out of their vehicle, as their interactions must be contactless and from a 2 metre distance. Please cooperate with their instructions.
- Parents of K-6 children wanting information about the Before&After School program operated by St. Maurice Daycare must contact the director of that program, Soraya Bader at 204-284-0881 or schage@stmaurice.mb.ca.
- Students in Grade 7 and 8 will have access to the morning and after school study halls, scheduled to begin on September 14th. The morning study hall will run from **7:30 am** until 9:00 am (the new start of homeroom time); students entering for study hall must use their assigned entry door. The afterschool study hall will run from 3:45 pm until 5:00 pm. Students will be required to sit in their assigned desk in their homeroom for any study hall period(s) they attend. The Educational Assistant assigned to the 7&8 study hall will supervise all four rooms and will not be as available as ordinarily for individual student questions, etc. Students must be promptly picked up as they will be ushered outdoors at 5 pm.
- Students in Grades 9 to 12 who arrive before the 9:00 am homeroom time may enter by their assigned entrance door upon arrival and will be required to sit in their assigned desk in their specified home room thereafter. High school students waiting after 3:45 for their ride will also be required to remain in their assigned desk in their homeroom until they depart using their assigned exit. The specific grade-assigned high school rooms will be available to 9-12 students to work at their desk [outside of school hours] from 7:30 am to 5:00 pm.
- **Although the 7&8 and 9-12 students will be permitted to enter the school and go to their own desk in their cohort study hall room as early as 7:30 am, it is the expectation that only students who have a reason for such an early arrival will be coming to school before 8:45 am (remember that the homeroom bell now rings at 9:00 am to start the day). This expectation is the same for the after school study time of 3:45 to 5:00 pm. The Administration will be verifying with the student and/or their parent the reason(s) why the student is needing to arrive between 7:30 and 8:45 am and to leave between 4:00 and 5:00 pm. Students without just cause for arriving early or leaving late will not be permitted to do so.**
- Students attending the before and/or after school study halls must remain in their own name-labelled assigned desk, with their mask on at all times.

Entrances and Exits

- With the exception of Kindergarten, parents/guardians will NOT be permitted to enter the school to drop off or pick up their child. All business with a school office, teacher or administrator must be conducted via telephone or email wherever possible.
- Visitors will not be permitted to enter the school unless they have pre-arranged and have been pre-authorized for entry by school personnel.
- Should the instance absolutely require an in-person meeting, the parent will be required to contact the appropriate school personnel by email in advance and a specific meeting date and time will be set, with instructions for entry into the school.
- Please send all notes and forms to the school with your child, who will hand them in to their homeroom teacher.
- Should a parent need to drop off paperwork or payment which cannot be delivered via their child, they may place their envelope into the locked black mailbox outside the school's white doors. Parents, please clearly mark the name of the person or office to receive the envelope and your name on the front of the envelope; this mailbox will be checked regularly and at least once per weekday.
- Kindergarten students will be brought by their parent up to the Kindergarten floor, where the child will be dropped off to the teacher. Parents are asked to have only one caregiver accompany the K child up to their room. The child's caregiver will not be allowed to enter the classroom, and to only hand over the student to the school staff at the classroom door. Please maintain a social distance of 2 metres from all other families while travelling up to the K classroom. Use only the right side of the stairwell and hallway. Once full-day classes begin for Kindergarten students, class time will run from 8:30 am to 3:15 pm.
- Grade 1 to 3 students will enter and exit using the playground doors. In the morning, one parent or caregiver should walk them from the parking lot through the gate on the west side of the school and onto the playground. The parent and child/ren must keep a 2 metre separation distance from other family groupings.
- Grade 4 to 6 students will enter and exit using the white doors and use the entire parking lot safety zone as their waiting area (except immediately in front of the blue doors, which will need to be kept clear for the passage of grade 11 and 12 students). The children must keep a 2 metre distance from others.
- Grade 7&8 students will enter and exit using the brown doors of the parish. If not attending the before/after study hall, they are expected to wait, socially-distanced, [in designated areas along the north side of the church and on the public sidewalk north of the school parking lot \(along Manahan Avenue\)](#). There is not enough space for all of these students to wait safely in the parking lot outside the brown doors while keeping their social distance.
- Grade 9 and 10 students will enter and exit the school using the south stairwell doors of the high school area. They will transit from the parking lot along the west side of the school to enter the "back stairwell" doors so as to go directly up to the second floor where all of their classes will be held. All students are expected to maintain the 2 metre social distance.
- Grade 11 and 12 students will enter using the blue doors to the high school and will go directly to the main floor of the high school where their classes will be held.
- Every student and staff member will be required to use school-supplied hand sanitizer every time they enter the school. Hand sanitizer dispensers will be located at all designated

entrances. School staff will oversee the use of the sanitizer for the younger students at their entrance doors.

- All school entrance doors will remain locked while classes are in session. Persons seeking access to the school are to call the school at 204-453-4020 and will be permitted entry if required, ordinarily using the blue doors only. All persons must sanitize their hands upon entry and report directly to the school office. All visitors must be signed in at the office stating their name, reason for the visit, school personnel they are meeting with, and their contact information to assist with contact tracing should the public health office be required to implement that procedure. All deliveries to the school will also follow these procedures.

First Day of School

- Students will not be permitted entry into the school until the first day of school on Tuesday, September 8th. Lockers will not be assigned until students are present for the first day of school on September 8. Requests for course changes (grades 7-12) should be emailed from the parent's email address to nsagriotis@stmaurice.mb.ca
- Grades 1-6: On September 8th, students in grades 1-6 are to wait outdoors, socially distanced, outside their assigned entry doors. They will be admitted individually and provided with hand sanitizer by school staff and directed to their assigned classroom. They are to go directly into their classroom with their backpack to be seated by their homeroom teacher. Locker/cubby assignments will be processed in small groups from each cohort throughout the first day.
- Grades 7-12: On September 8th, students in grades 7-12 will be permitted entry using their assigned doors beginning at 7:30 am (brown doors for 7&8, south high school stairwell doors for 9&10, blue doors for 11&12). Students in 7-12 are encouraged to come early to help decrease the number of people waiting outdoors on the first day. They will be admitted individually and provided with hand sanitizer by school staff and directed to their assigned classroom. They are to go directly into their classroom with their backpack and should bring reading materials or an electronic device to occupy their time until classes begin. Locker assignments will be processed in small groups from each cohort throughout the first day.
- Students in 7-12 should come to school on September 8th with their backpack including their lunch, their two masks, some pens, pencils, a calculator, loose leaf paper, and the like – just enough to get started. They will go directly to their homeroom classroom to be seated by their teacher. Students will be assigned their lockers in small groups directed by the homeroom teacher at some point during the first day.

Student Clothing

- All students will be expected to wear their full St. Maurice School uniform at all times they are in the school, including lunch, before/after study halls and senior spares. It is required that we minimize the use of the washrooms as changerooms
- All students are **required** to come to school already dressed in their student uniform and change to casual clothes only after they return home.
- Casual days and Loonie Tuesdays will continue to occur as scheduled on the monthly calendar. (Remember that all proceeds from Loonie Tuesdays are donated to Rossbrook House, a

neighbourhood drop-in centre for children, youth, and young adults in the innercity area of Winnipeg. These children continue to need our help!)

- Students will not change for physical education (gym) classes until further notice.

Masks

- On Wednesday, August 19, Dr. Brent Roussin and Manitoba Premier Brian Pallister announced the mandatory use of masks by all staff and by students in grades 4 to 12 when two metres physical distancing cannot be achieved. Students in Kindergarten to Grade 3 may also wear a mask if the parents wish, but this is not required, and there are some concerns expressed by public health about the wearing of masks by younger children as they are of an age to be as cautious about wearing a mask appropriately and safely. The wearing of non-medical masks is an *additional layer of protection*, which enhances but does not reduce the need for the other safety protocols involving hand sanitation, physical distancing and staying at home if experiencing flu-like symptoms.

Please take note that parents are responsible for providing their child with non-medical masks from home and ensuring their child is wearing their mask before they enter the school. The Province of Manitoba will be providing schools with a supply of disposable and re-useable masks for students and staff. The supply of masks provided to the school is not endless, and these masks will be used to provide for students who forget their mask, for those whose mask becomes unusable during the school day or for those who need to wear a medical grade mask while waiting to go home with flu-like symptoms. Please note that a non-medical mask is a new additional requirement on school supplies lists for all students in grades 4 to 12.

- Masks can be of any colour or pattern but must be appropriate for school (no images of skulls, guns, etc.), and must seal snugly against the face (nose, cheeks, chin).
- Every person (students in grades 4 to 12 and all staff members) should bring with them **two** non-medical masks each day. Ideally, these would both be re-useable cloth masks. If using disposable masks, your child would require 2 disposable masks per school day. The student is to arrive at the school wearing one of their masks and carrying the other in a sealed ziplock bag labelled "Clean" or "C", and placed in their school backpack. A second ziplock bag must be sent in the backpack as well, labelled "Dirty" or "D". When a mask change is called for, the person will place the used mask in the "Dirty" ziplock bag, and take out their second mask from the "Clean" ziplock bag. The second mask is worn until the student leaves from the school for home. Re-useable masks will need to be washed in hot soapy water before being sent to school with your child the next day.
- Parents of children in Kindergarten to Grade 3 who choose to send their child to school wearing a mask will also be expected to follow all of the protocols described above.
- Please advise your children in advance that some school staff, especially those who must work in close proximity to individual students may also be wearing a face shield in addition to their mask. It is important that children, especially younger ones, are taught that the face shield is an added layer of protection for both the student and staff person, and that they need not be afraid because someone is wearing a face shield (it doesn't mean they're sick).

Student Cohorts

- Students will be organized into specific cohorts (groupings) of not more than 75 children. The students in a cohort will not intermix with children from other cohorts. Contact between the cohorts will be minimized to the greatest extent possible. At St. Maurice School, this means that each grade level will be designated as a separate cohort, with each group assigned to specific classrooms for their entire school day.
- All 3 Kindergarten classes will form one cohort; Grades 1 to 12 have two homerooms, which will together form a grade-level cohort.
- The grouping by cohorts helps reduce the risk of transmission among the school population and would assist Public Health in contract tracing should a probable or confirmed case of COVID-19 be detected in a student or staff member.

Movement through the School

- All persons moving through the school when required will be required to walk on the right side of all hallways and stairwells, and must minimize their contact with walls, lockers, etc.
- The use of the stairwell handrails is still permitted to ensure physical safety; the handrails will be sanitized regularly through the day.

Recesses

- Recesses for K-8 students will be staggered for times, with specific areas of the playground assigned to the different student cohorts on rotating days to minimize the contact between cohorts, while still allowing students to have scheduled rotating access to the asphalted area, play structure and artificial turf field.

Lunch

- All food, snack and drinks must be brought from home each school day.
- Students at all levels, K-12, will eat lunch in their assigned seat in the homeroom classroom; the cafeteria space will not be available as it is not possible to maintain the separation of cohorts there.
- The Cafeteria food service for 7-12, Healthy lunch program for K-6 and the Pizza Days for K-6 will not be available until further notice. Parents and students will be advised if and when we are able to organize for any limited lunch sales.
- [**Microwaves ovens cannot be made available for students.**](#)
- [**Students in Grades 7&8 will not be permitted to leave the property for lunch, even with their parent's permission. The parent may pick up their child for lunch; they will need remain outdoors, to call the school office \(204-453-4020\) and their child will be sent out to meet them.**](#)
- Each student must bring a water bottle filled from home and taken home daily to wash and refill (water fountains will not be available)

Lockers

- Students will need to be organized well into their backpack, as locker visit times will be decreased and the opportunities for a locker change will be as scheduled under the direction of the teachers.

- Lockers will be used for outerwear only (jacket, outdoor shoes, boots), not for books, binders or storage. All school supplies, books, binders, and the student's lunch and masks must be kept in their own backpack.
- Students must not bring any materials to school other than what they actually need to have for successful school learning.
- As students will be assigned to a given desk for their classes, they may leave their school supplies in their desk under the guidance and direction of their teacher. Valuable items must not be brought to school, but if brought must be kept on the student's person or in their backpack, which must be kept with them, in their locker or at their assigned desk at all times (no materials may be left in hallways or on top of the lockers at any time).
- K-6 Teachers will make arrangements for locker access times which permit the separation of students from each other to the greatest extent possible.
- 7-12 students will be assigned their locker such that the students in a given grade cohort will be able to visit their locker with the most physical distancing possible.

Grade K-6 Classes

- The majority of the school day and subjects will be taught by the homeroom teacher (as usual).
- Music and French classes will be held in the homeroom classroom (classes will not be held in the Music Room)
- Grade 6 students will remain in their homeroom for all subjects; their subject specialist teachers (Math/Science, ELA) will move to their homeroom according to the usual schedule
- Essentially, students will spend their entire school day in their assigned desk in their homeroom such as to maintain as much physical distance from others for as much of the day as possible.
- Physical Education classes will be adapted to be held in the homeroom, outdoors, or for individual homerooms in the gymnasium. Best practices and alternatives for safe physical education are continually being developed for schools. Parents are encouraged to keep their child physically active during home times as the normal
- Where the classroom is furnished with tables (as opposed to desks), clear plastic shields have been ordered to separate the students.

Grade 7-12 Classes

- The small timetable for high school at St. Maurice and the fact that grades do not intermix for their option courses permits us to arrange grade level cohorts, which will allow *in-class sessions for all grade 7-12 students on all school days*.
- Students will be assigned to a desk in a room assigned for use by their grade. Subject teachers will move from room to room according to the existing timetable (which will be correct for all elements except the room assignments)
- High school option courses will involve the mixing of students from two homerooms, but these will all be students from the same allowable cohort of grade-level students.
- Where the classroom is furnished with tables (as opposed to desks), clear plastic shields have been ordered to separate the students.

Disinfection Routines

- Our custodial staff have increased their cleaning and disinfecting regimen, with more frequent cleaning of washrooms and high touch surfaces.

- High touch/high contact surfaces will be regularly disinfected throughout the day (e.g stairwell handrails, exterior door handles, light switches, etc.)
- Interior doors (excluding fire doors) will be left open wherever possible to avoid the need to use the door handle.
- Student desks and chairs will be disinfected daily.

Student or Staff Illness / Outbreak Management

- “Stay home, Go home” if experiencing or exhibiting any symptoms per the COVID-19 screening tool. Contact Health Links at 204-788-8200 or your child’s doctor to seek medical advice; please follow all measures and recommendations for the well-being of your child and the whole school community. Contact the school office with any information provided from Health Links which may impact your child’s attendance at school.
- If the child is already at school when symptoms are observed, the office will contact the parents to pick up their child immediately; parents are expected to contact Health Links or their child’s doctor as above. The student will be moved to a quarantine room and provided with a disposable mask to wear. The parent is asked to call the school office from the parking lot when they arrive and school staff will then escort their child to them in the safety zone of the parking lot. A sick child must be picked up as immediately as possible.
- A sick student’s desk, chair, etc. will be sanitized immediately and their departure due to illness/symptoms will be recorded should it be required for their doctor or public health. The quarantine room will be sanitized immediately after the child is picked up.
- Be aware that different personnel may be arranged as required to cover the unexpected illness of school staff members, for those who may need to self-isolate, or for those who have a medically advised situation which prevents them from attending at work. This may involve the re-assignment of St. Maurice School administrators, teachers, campus ministers and/or EAs, as well as substitute teachers and/or EAs from the pool of Manitoba Catholic Schools substitutes.
- In the event of the confirmation of a case of COVID-19 connected with the school, public health will lead the response and ensure appropriate direction and supports are in place to coordinate the response.

Education on Safe Practices

- Teacher and Parents must work consistently together to reinforce with the children the importance of the safe practices: hand sanitizer use upon entry into the school, hand washing for 20 seconds with soap and water when directed by their teacher (or as needed after sneezing or coughing), sneezing/coughing into your elbow, identifying to the teacher/parent if they are feeling unwell or have any symptoms to be checked, no sharing of items or foods, etc.
- Especially important will be the education of children on the importance of socially distancing and remaining only with their grade cohort. All persons must maintain a 2 metre distance from others whenever possible; a minimum 1 metre distance may be implemented for students as they are seated at their desks in the classroom. No hugs, handshakes or fist-bumps; these should be replaced with a wave, nod or smile!
- Hand sanitizer and a surface spray disinfectant will be provided to each classroom teacher for their use in the instance of a person sneezing or coughing without effectively cover with their sleeve

Mental Health

- In the days before classes begin, all school staff will be discussing approaches to helping children at all levels talk about and cope with their concerns arising from the pandemic.
- Homeroom teachers will be holding regular, if not daily, opportunities for their students to talk about their experiences during the pandemic, and if comfortable, about their fears, concerns and strategies for adjusting to the “new normal”.
- Our school counsellor, administrators and two campus ministers will visit individual classes as well as provide opportunities for students to connect individually with them for guidance and support.
- St. Maurice School has made our school counsellor’s position full time to permit for more ready access for students (Mrs. Lantin was teaching part time for the past few school years)
- Parents are also asked to watch for stress/anxiety in their children, with parents and the teacher/counsellor/administrator to be in contact by email or phone to identify and address any noted concerns.
- Parents and staff are advised to consult with the excellent resources indicated in Manitoba’s general re-opening plans document, copied for you below:

Resources on Talking to Children about COVID-19

- Resources for Supporting Children’s Emotional Well-being during the COVID-19 Pandemic This site provides guidance, recommendations, and resources from child trauma experts at Child Trends and the Child Trauma Training Center at the University of Massachusetts.

https://www.childtrends.org/publications/resources-for-supporting-childrens-emotional-well-being-during-the-covid-19-pandemic?utm_source=mailchimp&utm%20campaign=030096d2e1f0&utm_medium=page

- How Teachers Can Talk to Children about Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) This UNICEF site provides tips for having age-appropriate discussions to reassure and protect children.

<https://www.unicef.org/coronavirus/how-teachers-can-talk-childrenabout-coronavirus-disease-covid-19.27>

- Seven Simple Tips on How to Talk to Kids About the Coronavirus As the world’s leading expert on childhood, Save the Children has provided parents, schools, and communities with these tools and tips about COVID-19 and kids.

https://www.savethechildren.org/us/what-we-do/emergency-response/coronavirus-outbreak/coronavirus-outbreak-how-to-explain-children?utm_source=mailchimp&utm_campaign=030096d2e1f0&utm_medium=page

Attitudes and Role Modelling

- All persons in the school community are called to be good citizens, to become enablers of social justice and to care for each other during these difficult times.
- “Book learning” about the coronavirus, COVID-19, the pandemic and prevention strategies are important, and will be introduced in school in age appropriate ways at all levels.
- However, it will be equally, if not more important, that everyone make efforts to teach by example and gentle correction some of the virtues which will help us all get through the challenges ... patience, empathy, prayer, consideration, and love.
- The COVID-19 pandemic has brought challenges, restrictions, fears, and disappointments, but we should try to focus on a great number of other things which have also arisen from this crisis.

Please reflect on your own meaning of the following, which have also become realities in our COVID experience: adaptability, flexibility, strength, resilience, creativity, teamwork, inspiration, lifelong learning, charity, compassion, faith and family. Be sure to work some of these positives into your regular conversations with your children, our students.

Prayers

- Rest assured of the school and parish staff's prayers for your children and families now and as we return to classes in September.
- Please see the reflection article *A Faith Response to the Coronavirus* on the school website at: https://5df2b469-f3ce-4765-8ef2-4f35f284dd6d.filesusr.com/ugd/7eb69d_29d92f7ad44e42a6b1e7deca83f051fc.pdf
- Please remember the school staff in your prayers as well as the administrators, teachers and staff continue to develop and enact plans to keep us all safe when we return to the all-important provision of an excellent Catholic education for your children!

Prayers for everyone in our school community and in the world in these challenging times.

God bless,
Mr. Bryan Doiron
Principal
St. Maurice Parochial School
of St. Vital Roman Catholic Church