



Turtle River School Division

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March 15, 2022 Changes in Schools Update

March 10, 2022

Dear Parents, Guardians, & Caregivers:

Recent updates to Public Health Orders in Manitoba are seeing the official removal of all COVID Public Health restrictions throughout the province as well as in Manitoba Schools beginning on March 15, 2022. As such, Turtle River School Division will be following this new guidance as we shift back to “normal” pre-COVID conditions by also removing all COVID related practices in schools. Moving forward, **Turtle River School Division will be taking the stance that these practices are recommended, but not mandated and determined by each family or person.** Rest assured, there are many things we have learned through this pandemic and will continue to implement as good practices. Diligent cleaning, staying home when you are sick, and cleaning or sanitizing our hands more often are some of these practices that we will strongly recommend. We know that it is possible that if the number of cases in area increases substantially that we may be asked to re-implement some of these COVID restrictions. As a possible result of that, we have decided out of precaution that until at least the end of this school year, we will be doing our best in all of our schools to maintain 6ft/2m distance in student seating.

As mask requirements are also being changed from mandatory to recommended as of March 15th, 2022, it is important that we respect each others decision and choice to wear a mask. It is important to note that anyone is allowed to continue to wear masks, based on their individual risk and personal preference. All schools will continue to have medical masks available to provide to those students who would like one. Additionally, we encourage all staff members and students to continue to follow preventive measures as much as possible:

- ❖ Be sure to stay home if you're sick
- ❖ Wash and sanitize your hands frequently
- ❖ Get vaccinated when you can

As we move away from the COVID Public Health measures that have been in place over the last two years, let's proceed with caution and care. Please be kind and understanding to everyone as our community, home and school environment continues to change over the coming months.

Thank you for your support and understanding.

Sincerely,

Bev Szymesko