

CIRCULAR

Date: September 21, 2020

To: Superintendents of School Divisions
Principals of Funded Independent School Principals
Manitoba Association of School Superintendents
Manitoba School Boards Association
Manitoba Federation of Independent Schools
Manitoba Association of School Business Officials
Manitoba Teachers' Society
Manitoba Association of Parent Councils

Subject: COVID-19 K-12 Updated Guidance—Masks and Visitor Records

Circular Number: COVID19: 2020-003

Type: Policy Procedure For Information

Effective Date: Immediately

Background

On August 24, 2020, the Manitoba government updated *COVID-19 K-12 School Settings Practice Guidance and Protocols* <https://manitoba.ca/covid19/restoring/rss-practice-guidance.html> (originally released on August 13, 2020). The Practice Guidance and Protocols document outlines key public health and educational policy information to support planning for the 2020-21 school year, with the goal of maximizing in-class learning while minimizing the risk of transmission and exposure to COVID-19 in Manitoba's K-12 schools.

This circular provides updated guidance from public health officials regarding mask use on school buses.

Updated Guidance on Mask Use on School Buses

Further to *Guidance for Mask Use in Schools*

https://www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/covid/docs/mask_guidance.pdf issued on September 2, 2020, public health officials have advised that if a student cannot wear a mask as outlined in the mask guidance, the student who is exempt from wearing a mask can be seated in the same seat as household members. However, they should not be seated in the same seat with another member of their cohort.

Updated Guidance on Mask Use in Cohorts

In the case of cohorts, which require a minimum of one metre of physical distancing while students are seated at their desk or table, if a student is unable to wear a mask as outlined in the mask guidance, the recommendation in the classroom is unchanged for these students. There is no requirement to adjust the cohort or the seating plan in the class.

Further Guidance on Mask Wearing Limitations and School Accommodations

A new document with additional guidance regarding mask wearing limitations and school accommodations related to mask wearing has been developed and is available at https://www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/covid/docs/further_guidance_mask_wearing.pdf.

Retaining Visitor Records

Public health officials have advised that schools should retain a 21-day record of visitors to the school, including name, telephone number and contacts while in the school, for the purposes of contact tracing.

Additional Resources

For more information on Manitoba Education's COVID-19 response, including regularly updated Frequently Asked Questions, please see www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/covid.

If you have any questions regarding the COVID-19 response, please email educovid19@gov.mb.ca.