



# Manitoba Pandemic Support Guide

## Promoting Physical Safety

### Key Priority for School/Division Staff: Establishing a Sense of Physical Safety in School Spaces

This support guide contains resources, protocols, and guidelines that can help to promote the physical safety of staff and students in Kindergarten to Grade 12 schools. It is meant for school principals, teachers, clinicians, support staff, maintenance, and transportation staff and anyone else working within school/division spaces.

The COVID-19 pandemic is ongoing and what we know about COVID-19 is changing, which can contribute to uncertainty when it comes to promoting physical safety in school environments. Along with taking care of our mental health, there are many things we can do to promote our physical safety in schools.

### Resources and Supports

#### SAFE Work Manitoba

Although in-person workshops and events have been postponed due to COVID-19, there are online webinars available. These webinars were created in partnership with the Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety.

- **COVID-19: Best Practices for a Safe Workplace:** This 40-minute course complies with provincial health guidelines and teaches workers how to apply the “four Ps of COVID-19 workplace safety”:
  - physical distancing – limit close contact with others
  - personal hygiene – ensure hands and objects are clean
  - physical environment – steps you take to reduce the risk
  - personal protective equipment (PPE) use

[www.safemanitoba.com/Education/Pages/COVID-19-Best-Practices-for-a-Safe-Workplace.aspx](http://www.safemanitoba.com/Education/Pages/COVID-19-Best-Practices-for-a-Safe-Workplace.aspx)

## Disinfectants and Hand Sanitizers

The COVID-19 pandemic created an urgent need for disinfectants and hand sanitizers, as well as up-to-date information on their effectiveness and availability.

- **Hard-surface disinfectants and hand sanitizers (COVID-19):** This federal government webpage provides guidance on the use of
  - hygiene and hand sanitizers
  - hard-surface disinfectants
  - surface sanitizers

[www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/drugs-health-products/disinfectants/covid-19.html](http://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/drugs-health-products/disinfectants/covid-19.html)

## SAFE Work Manitoba

- **Shop Talk: Worker Rights and Responsibilities:** The webpage, [www.safemanitoba.com/Page%20Related%20Documents/resources/BL231\\_WorkerRightsResponsibilities\\_14SWMB.pdf](http://www.safemanitoba.com/Page%20Related%20Documents/resources/BL231_WorkerRightsResponsibilities_14SWMB.pdf), provides information on the rights of workers, including

- the right to know about workplace hazards
- the right to participate in workplace safety and health activities
- the right to refuse work believed to be dangerous to the employee or to others
- the right to protection from discriminatory action when carrying out duties

This webpage also provides information on how the employer and worker can support these rights. [www.safemanitoba.com/Resources/Pages/ResourceTypes.aspx?ResourceType=Shop%20Talk](http://www.safemanitoba.com/Resources/Pages/ResourceTypes.aspx?ResourceType=Shop%20Talk)

### SAFE Work Manitoba

**Call** 204-957-SAFE (7233) in Winnipeg,  
or 1-855-957-SAFE (7233) outside Winnipeg

**Email:** [information@safeworkmanitoba.ca](mailto:information@safeworkmanitoba.ca)

**Live Chat** button in the top-right corner of each page on our website

**Mailing address:** 16–363 Broadway, Winnipeg MB, R3C 3N9

## Manitoba School Boards Association (MSBA)

The MSBA provides guidance on promoting physical safety in schools.

- **School Re-entry Protocols: A Reference Guide for Schools:** This September 2020 MSBA document contains thematic guidelines on risk management and health promotion in the context of the re-entry of staff and students to schools. [www.mbschoolboards.ca/documents/services/School%20Re-entry%20Protocols.pdf](http://www.mbschoolboards.ca/documents/services/School%20Re-entry%20Protocols.pdf)
- **COVID-19 Repository:** This repository includes guidance on the following:
  - playground structures
  - toboggan hill

- hand hygiene
- physical distancing
- COVID precautions

[www.mbschoolboards.ca/covidRepository.php](http://www.mbschoolboards.ca/covidRepository.php)

- **Working in Cold Weather:** In some cases, teachers are encouraged to take class outdoors (physical education, band, music, and others). It is important to consider working outside in cold conditions. This webpage provides guidelines on working outdoors during cold weather in Manitoba.

[www.safemanitoba.com/topics/Pages/Working-in-Cold-Weather.aspx](http://www.safemanitoba.com/topics/Pages/Working-in-Cold-Weather.aspx)

## Manitoba COVID-19 Testing and Information

Manitoba's COVID-19 testing approach has evolved based on public health evidence. Testing eligibility criteria have expanded to guide the province's response. Presently, anyone with symptoms of COVID-19 is eligible for testing.

- **Shared Health Manitoba COVID-19 Screening Tool:** This tool is not a medical assessment and does not substitute for consulting with your doctor. It can be used to determine if you should contact Health Links or seek other medical advice. This tool is regularly updated and allows individuals to ascertain whether further intervention is needed based on their responses.

<https://sharedhealthmb.ca/covid19/screening-tool/>

- **COVID-19 Testing Information for Manitobans:** This website provides information on the following:

- testing site locations
- making an appointment
- checking results
- symptoms of COVID-19
- case and contact monitoring
- testing questions and answers
- rapid testing questions and answers

<https://manitoba.ca/covid19/testing/index.html>

- **Cases and Risk of COVID-19 in Manitoba:** This webpage, along with the dashboard of cases in Manitoba, is updated daily with information on the following:

- maps of cases in Manitoba
- outbreaks in Manitoba
- COVID-19 testing and contact tracing

[www.gov.mb.ca/covid19/updates/cases.html#contact](http://www.gov.mb.ca/covid19/updates/cases.html#contact)

- **COVID-19 Information for Manitobans:** This webpage provides up to date COVID-19 exposure events (including school exposures) across the province based on health region. Simply click on the health region of interest.

[www.gov.mb.ca/covid19/index.html](http://www.gov.mb.ca/covid19/index.html)