

Frontier School Division School Re-Entry Plan, Fall 2020

Updated October 2020



Message from the Chief Superintendent

As you already are aware, we are going back to school. It is exciting to think of our children back in the classroom, learning and growing towards becoming contributing citizens. It seems like so long since we were all together in person.

We recognize living with COVID-19 is now common place for our world, and returning to schools and in-class learning will be different in order for students and staff to remain safe. Minimizing the risks of COVID-19 is our first priority for students and families as we work to provide a safe and secure learning environment in these different times.

This document outlines the steps Frontier School Division will take to ensure that students and staff can return to school safely. Our plan is based on policy and public health directions that have been outlined by the Chief Provincial Public Health Officer. We will continue to follow these health directives and should changes be required, make them immediately. This is a living document that we will update if and when necessary.

We know that you have many questions and concerns regarding the proposed return to in-school learning. Many of those questions will be answered in this document, and others will be answered by your local schools as they share their plans in their community prior to the return to school on September 8, 2020.

We eagerly look forward to having Frontier students back in school.

Reg Klassen

Chief Superintendent
Frontier School Division

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Introduction

Frontier School Division Senior Leadership Team will continue to review and alter this plan as we continue to receive updated information regarding COVID-19 and additional public health recommendations. Staff will return to work on September 2 to review the information and expectations laid out in this plan and will continue to finalize their school-based preparedness plans. Frontier School Division will continue to mitigate risk for all students, staff, and community members by following and exceeding public health requirements regarding COVID-19. The following document was created and is informed by the following documents:

Welcome our Students Back; Restoring Safe Schools: Guidelines for September 2020;

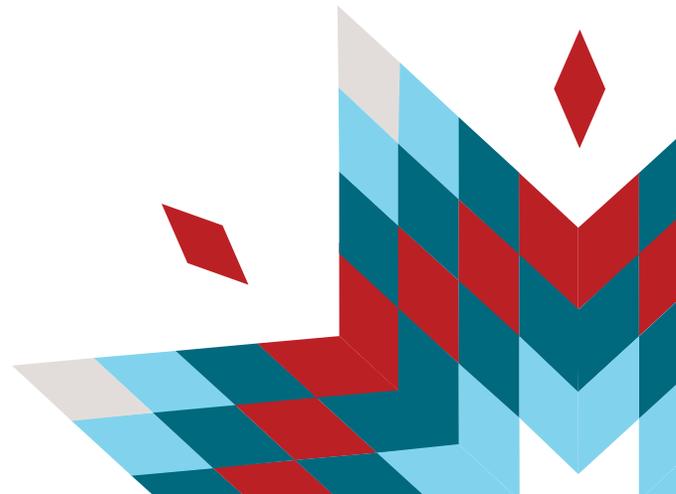
- COVID-19 K-12 School Settings, Practice Guidance and Protocols;
- Parent / Guardian Frequently Asked Questions;
- Guidelines for Transportation to Schools;

They can all be found online at

<https://www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/covid/index.html>

Over the first 4 weeks of this school year, schools and all staff members will support the ongoing teaching and learning of safety procedures as we continue to navigate our new normal. Schools will communicate with family members and community regarding these expectations. Schools will collaborate with local community, family members, students, and School Committees regarding school-based health and safety processes and procedures in an ongoing effort to co-create safety and health pathways that are reflective of our individual community needs across Northern Manitoba.

The three scenarios below have been outlined by the province in the document titled, “Welcoming Our Students Back; Restoring Safe Schools.” Schools will be flexible regarding these scenarios, and prepared to move between scenario 1, 2, and 3 as needed and directed by Public Health. School staff will all aid in ensuring students and families understand and are prepared to move successfully between Scenario 1, 2, and 3.



Scenarios

Each Scenario will continue to focus on learning and wellbeing.

Scenario 1:

1. In-class learning resumes for all; near normal with public health measures.

Scenario 2:

1. In-class learning resumes with additional public health measures.
2. In-class resumes five (5) days per week, for students in K-8, students with special needs (all grades) and students who require additional support.
3. Schools may increase in-class learning for Grades 9 – 12 to five (5) days per week if they can maintain physical distancing and limit interaction between different groups of students.
4. Grades 9 – 12 may participate in blended in-class and remote learning, with a minimum of two (2) days in class per week; this will also include Adult Education Centres.

Scenario 3:

1. Limited use of Schools (Implemented June 1, 2020).
2. In-class learning is suspended.
3. Teacher-led remote learning for all K-12 students; this will also include Adult Education Centres.

Internet Connectivity

Frontier School Division recognizes that there remains an ongoing concern regarding internet connectivity in Northern Manitoba which will continue to impact student and family ability to participate in remote learning. Schools will prepare students to the best of their ability for distance and remote learning should we enter Scenario 2 or 3.

Attendance

Provincial expectations for attendance are still relevant and the expectation for students to attend school remains mandatory. If a student has an underlying health condition, as outlined and supported by medical documentation, that would prevent them from attending school, the school will work closely with the student and family to ensure distance learning is implemented. Similarly, unless there are exceptional circumstances involved, students are expected to participate in distance and remote learning should the scenario require it.

If students are ill, or exhibiting any of the following symptoms, they will be kept home from school:

- Cough
- Headache
- Fever / chills
- Muscle aches
- Sore throat / hoarse voice
- Vomiting, or diarrhea for more than 24 hours
- Shortness of breath/
breathing difficulties
- Loss of taste or smell
- Poor feeding if an infant
- Runny nose
- Fatigue
- Nausea or loss of appetite
- Conjunctivitis (pink eye)
- Skin rash of unknown cause

Cohorting

The province has outlined guidelines that involve physical (social) distancing and 'cohorting'. These requirements have caused us to reimagine how schools are organized in order to ensure that health guidelines are adhered to.

These concepts will require us to consider the following options:

1. The use of all available school spaces in relationship to smaller learning cohorts of students.
2. How teachers and Educational Assistants work with students in relationship to learning cohorts.
3. The design and delivery of curricula, and the consideration of blended learning models.
4. The relationship of scheduling and timetabling in relationship to 'cohorting' and 'blended learning'.
5. If available, the utilization of additional community spaces and buildings to help with achieving physical (social) distancing requirements.
6. Creating a nurturing sense of community of each of these cohorts in September will be essential to ensure that students and staff thrive in 2020-2021, regardless of the scenario we find ourselves implementing this fall.

School Calendar

Manitoba Education has communicated the following:

1. The school calendar will have three (3) additional days added prior to the Labour Day weekend. For teachers the school year will start on September 2, 2020. Educational Assistants and all other staff will return September 4, 2020 for training or earlier, if required. Students will return to classes on September 8, 2020.
2. September 2, 3 and 4 are mandated non-instructional days. Schools are to use this time to prepare physical spaces, review the Division plan, educate staff on public health measures and engage collaboratively on approaches to teaching and learning.
3. School Divisions will schedule the seven remaining non-instructional days.
4. All Professional Development days should be focused on Division Priorities and or COVID-19 related responses and priorities.

Winter Break

Last Day of School: Friday December 18, 2020

School Re-opens: Monday, January 4, 2021

Spring Break

Last Day of School: Friday, March 26, 2021

School Re-Opens: Monday, April 5, 2021

Year End

Last Day of School: Wednesday, June 30, 2021

Grade 12 Provincial Exams

A decision regarding the status of Grade 12 Provincial Exams will be made as more information is made available from the Province.

Health and Safety Protocols

Frontier School Division has a number of Safe Work Procedures to ensure the safety and health of students, staff and community members while in our school facilities. These procedures will be continuously reviewed and updated to reflect the most recent public health guidelines and expectations. School Administration will make sure that all staff are aware and have the most up to date Safe Work Procedures available and that they implement them fully.

Safe Work Procedures related to COVID-19 include:

1. COVID-19 General Information
2. COVID -19 Lifespan
3. Employee Right to Refuse Dangerous Work
4. Safe Work Delivery of Materials by Staff in a Personal Vehicle
5. Safe Work Delivery of Materials by Bus Drivers and Staff
6. Safe Work for Visitors to Frontier School Division School and Facilities
7. Safe Work General Cleaning and Disinfecting
8. Safe Work Cleaning and Disinfection of School Buses
9. Safe Work Handling of Library Resources (COVID-19)
10. Safe Work Handling of Music Equipment (COVID-19)
11. Safe Work Handling of Industrial Arts and Vocational Equipment (COVID-19)
12. Safe Work Handling of Physical Education Equipment (COVID-19)
13. Safe Work Procedure use of COVID-19 Screening Tool and Questions

Mental Health and Wellbeing

Student and staff mental health and wellness remain a priority and will continue to guide our decision making. Frontier School Division will support students and staff in the following ways:

1. Work with trained professionals across the division to develop school-based programs and supports, in addition to facilitating workshops and presentations for students and staff.
2. Mental Health Promotion in schools will focus on enhancing protective factors that contribute to the social and emotional growth of children and youth.
3. Elders and knowledge keepers will be invited and encouraged to support students, staff and community members in the areas of wellbeing, knowing and doing.

Re-thinking Space in School

Manitoba Education has stated resuming in-class learning still requires a level of physical distancing.

1. Schools will implement strategies and timetabling to avoid overcrowding in the hallways and common areas, entrances and other non-instructional spaces.
2. Schools will limit non-essential visitors to the greatest extent possible.
3. Schools will not schedule assemblies and large gatherings (including professional development sessions and meetings) that exceed public health advice.
4. Outdoor space for teaching and learning is encouraged.

Re-thinking Teaching and Learning

In Scenario 2, the province states that schools will prioritize core curriculum and required courses needed for graduation. Electives may be limited where feasible, if they are not affecting education requirements.

1. Teachers will immediately begin to prepare students for possible additional periods of remote learning as outlined in Scenario 2 and 3 by the Province.
2. The first weeks of school will be devoted to building community and teaching digital competency.
3. This will include direct teaching of online platforms available to students and the use of technology (if internet access is available).
4. Manitoba Education has outlined the need for school divisions to refine their blended learning strategy. School Administrators, together with their Area Superintendents will review this strategy at the school level given the community and student access to technology and internet connectivity.

Technology

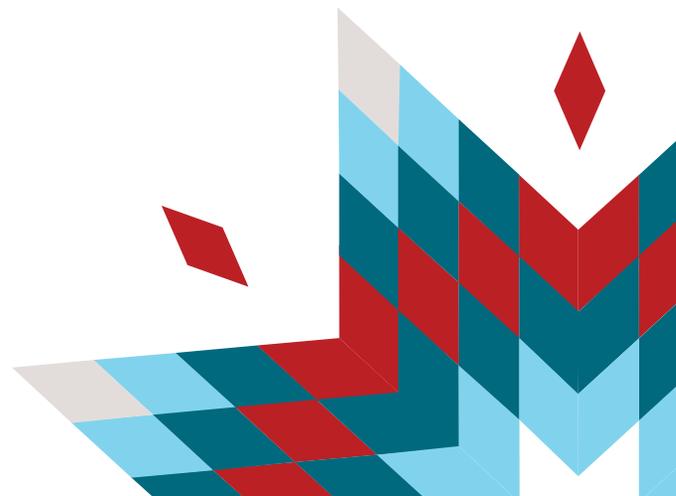
Frontier School Division will continue to use a variety of online learning platforms to support students. This will include the Division-wide use of Microsoft Office 365 and Microsoft Teams to support the teaching and learning in all 3 scenarios outlined by the province of Manitoba.

1. To date, Frontier School Division has distributed over 1,100 devices to support students with remote learning.
2. A number of professional development sessions have been offered online for Frontier staff during the suspension of classes (including but not limited to topics of Distance Education, Indigenous Languages, Treaty Relations, Land-Based Pedagogy, Physical Education, Community Engagement, and the use of online platforms i.e. Microsoft Teams).
3. Frontier School Division remains a strong advocate for the improvement of and access to reliable internet for all students and families across Northern Manitoba. We recognize this is an enormous barrier when it comes to our students accessing and participating in remote learning.

Student Services and Clinical Services

Student Services in Frontier School Division is preparing for changes as a result of COVID-19. This may include:

1. The use of small student cohorts.
2. Distance and Remote Learning.
3. Staff members wearing additional PPE (Personal Protective Equipment).
4. Changes to Student Specific Plans (SSPs) to account for remote learning, cohorting and physical (social) distancing requirements.
5. Continued and detailed communication with families regarding SSPs.
6. Ongoing use of technology to support students with additional learning needs remotely.
7. School Administration will review Manitoba Education “COVID-19: Resources Supporting Students with Special Needs with School Student Service Teams.”
8. School Administrators will review, update and assign case management portfolios to staff.



A. Institutional Preparedness

Frontier School Division shall ensure student and staff preparedness by:

1. Orienting all staff to current public health protocols that must be followed in the school, prior to in-class learning resuming.
2. Frontier School Division will use Safe Work Procedures related to COVID-19 that will be available to all school staff in order to assist with school-based planning and orientations.
3. All staff will be included in this orientation (i.e., bus drivers, educational assistants, custodial staff etc.)
4. Review of COVID-19 symptoms and online screening tool with all staff (this will also be reviewed at the orientation). The COVID-19 Screening Tool can be found here, <https://sharedhealthmb.ca/covid19/screening-tool/>
5. The provincial document (which outlines Infection Control Guidelines) will be reviewed with all staff at the orientation. Although this document is originally designed for use for Early Learning and Child Care, it is relevant and applicable for all grades. https://www.gov.mb.ca/fs/childcare/resources/pubs/infection_control.pdf&sa=D&ust=1595794440500000&usg=AFQjCNE6mnMe84L1jywc8_uyD1rqwyVCXw
6. Preparing physical classrooms and spaces to accommodate for physical distancing, including increased sanitization, hand hygiene.
7. Posting highly visible information, about physical (social) distancing, hand hygiene and cleaning (both signs and floor markers). Arrows and floor markings will direct traffic in hallways and stairwells.
8. Frontier School Division will develop similar signage in the Indigenous Language of the local community (where applicable).
9. Ensure that all teacher housing is sanitized prior to staff returning to work in the Fall of 2020.
10. Cleaning and Sanitization supplies will be provided and available to all classroom teachers.
11. Hand sanitizer will be placed in highly frequented areas i.e. the school entrance, office, and cafeteria.
12. Schools will avoid using public water fountains.
13. Classroom teachers will develop a hand washing schedule for their class which will include direct teaching for students of how to properly wash your hands. Please reference “Hygiene Practices” in the provincial document: “COVID-19 K-12 School Settings Practice Guidance and Protocols” for additional information regarding this schedule.

14. School supplies will not be shared (if students do not have their individual supplies, they will be provided by the school).
15. Schools will develop a schedule that ensures frequently touched surfaces will be disinfected at least twice daily, including washrooms.
16. Frontier School Division will provide contact information of any school staff, student, or visitor to Public Health Officials (upon request), who may have been in 'close contact' with an individual who tests positive for COVID-19.
17. Public Health officials are responsible for sharing and communication with 'close contacts' and for advising the wider school community. Frontier School Division must not communicate such information without specific written direction from Public Health officials and in consultation with the Area and/or Chief Superintendent.
18. Entry and exits to schools will be managed to avoid congestion.
19. Frontier School Division will distribute contact tracing logs to each school. School office staff will be diligent in ensuring these logs are signed by all visitors (including all Frontier employees) who enter the building.
20. While in attendance at a Division facility, in accordance with Public Health mandate, all students in Grades 4 to 12 and Adult Learning Centres, employees, and visitors will wear a non-medical mask when physical distancing is not possible. Non-medical masks will be provided by Frontier School Division.

Frontier School Division shall ensure student and staff preparedness by:

1. School Administrators, together with their Area Superintendent, will create a school schedule that will allow for both 'physical (social) distancing' and the 'cohorting' of students. Schools will review provincial document "COVID-19 K-12 School Settings Practice Guidance and Protocols" for additional information on cohorting.
2. The maximum cohort size is to be no more than 75 students.
3. Additional school spaces will be utilized if necessary and available in order to accommodate for 'physical (social) distancing' and 'cohorting'.
4. 90% of students in Frontier School Division are bussed. This will require schools and Areas to consider a timetable where students and/or grades attend on different days of the school day cycle.
5. Schools should consider the following in relationship to recess:
 - a. Staggered recess breaks to ensure social distancing and cohorting is followed.
 - b. Schedule at least two (2) sustained periods of recess every day for every child and hold it outdoors whenever possible.
 - c. Engage children in planning and ensure they include a continuum of options to choose from. Engage them in setting expectations and rules for health and safety. Provide leadership opportunities for students to help support each other, maintain the equipment and emphasize the importance of diversity and inclusion.
 - d. Avoid strict rules like "no running" and "no ball throwing" that can undermine the benefits of play and physical activity.
 - e. Ensure that all children have access to recess, feel safe and included and are able to experience meaningful and playful engagement.
6. Grades K-6 students will report to their classroom (homeroom teacher) and remain in that classroom for the duration of their time at school. Specialists / Itinerant teachers will rotate through classrooms for an appropriate amount of time, equally distributed. Students will not have access to lockers (backpacks only) and will carry a water bottle (either from home or provided to them from school). If students remain at school for lunch, it will be served in their homeroom.
7. Grades 7-8 students will report to their classroom (homeroom teacher) and remain in that classroom for the duration of their time at school. Students will only change classrooms for additional courses that may not be offered in their homeroom (i.e. Industrial Arts). Students will not have access to lockers (backpacks only) and will carry a water bottle (either from home or provided to them from school). There will be no locker breaks. If students remain at school for lunch, it will be served in their homeroom.

8. Students in Grades 9 - 12 will report to their classrooms as scheduled providing that schools can ensure social distancing requirements are met. Frontier School Division recognizes that school size and enrolment plays a large role in this decision-making process. Students will follow markings and/or arrows in the hallways and stairwells to ensure physical distancing is observed during period change. Surfaces will be cleaned at the start and end of each class by individual students. From one class to the next, students will sit in alternating seats. There will be no locker breaks. If students require a break, outdoor walks will be permitted / scheduled by classroom teachers, and staff will ensure physical distancing is observed. Students will carry a water bottle (either from home or provided to them from school). Lunch will be scheduled in smaller groups to ensure physical distancing is observed. Adult Education Centres will follow the applicable pieces of the 9-12 Scheduling Plan.
9. Schools will review the provincial document; "COVID-19 K-12 School Settings Practice Guidance and Protocol" document for additional information regard food handling and service in schools.
10. Students in K - 12, and with additional learning needs, special education needs, or students considered to be at-risk, will be given priority in terms of in-person learning.
11. Fire drills and lockdown requirements must be considered within the COVID-19 environment. Modifications will be needed to these practices in order to achieve public health guidelines.
12. Student travel for field trips out of the community and/or overnight trips have been suspended until further notice.

Frontier School Division will ensure Transportation Guidelines are met by:

1. Bus routes will remain the same, but students may be picked up on alternating days or weeks, depending space availability.
2. Asking for the support of parents, community, family and guardians to transport students if they are able.
3. Students will physically (social) distance on the school bus (unless they reside in the same household), in which case they can sit in the same seat.
4. Bus drivers will understand COVID-19 Screening, and will be mindful to not transport students with any symptoms. Bus drivers will participate in training, and become familiar with all other mandatory and necessary public health measures.
5. Hand sanitizer will be provided to students as they board and exit the bus.
6. Signs regarding physical (social) distancing and hand hygiene will also be posted on the interior of the bus.
7. Buses will be sanitized after each run.
8. No food or drinks shall be consumed on the bus.
9. All school bus passengers in Grade 4 and over, as well as the driver, are required to wear a non-medical mask. These should be put on before getting on the bus and taken off after exiting the bus, if removal is appropriate for the setting. Students in lower grades may also wear non-medical masks.

B. Learning Preparedness

Frontier School Division will assess students by:

1. Assessment will take place in the fall with and for all students in Frontier School Division.
2. Receiving classroom teachers will be made aware of students that did not participate fully in remote learning.
3. Teachers will spend additional time supporting students who did not participate fully in remote learning.
4. Teachers will continue to monitor students that require additional support throughout the school year.
5. This may also include a credit recovery model, in which students will have the opportunity to achieve credits that they were unsuccessful with last school year, without having to retake an entire course.
6. Teachers are expected to have at a minimum, two (2) weeks' worth of lesson plans pre-planned and available in the event they are ill, need to self-isolate or quarantine during the 2020-2021 school year.

Frontier School will ensure programming needs are met by:

1. School, for all grades, will continue to focus on mental health and well being of students. This includes access to culture, land-based education, ceremony and Indigenous Language instruction (safely and in alignment with provincial guidelines for physical distancing).
2. Students in Grades K-12 will continue to receive opportunities for physical education as it knowingly contributes to positive mental health. Physical Education will take place outdoors as often as the weather permits. Some aspect of the Physical Education curriculum may need to be offered in a regular classroom setting. This will depend on the school population, ability to cohort, and social distance.
3. There will be a focus on both Literacy and Numeracy for Grades 1-4.
4. There will be a focus on both Literacy and Numeracy for students in Grades 5-8 with integrated curriculum in the areas of Social Studies and Science.

5. Students in Grades 9 - 12 will focus on compulsory subjects as outlined by Manitoba Education for graduation (This will also include Adult Education Centres).
6. Students in Grades 9 - 12 will also continue programming and courses in the areas of Industrial Arts and Vocational Education.
7. The possibility of teacher reassignment will be decided by the School Principal and Area Superintendent (i.e. a teacher may be required to teach a compulsory course, or credit at the high school level, instead of an elective). All staff will remain flexible regarding their assignment(s).
8. All choral activities, and the use and/or sharing of any wind or brass instruments will not continue in Frontier School Division. Instruments should not be shared by students. Schools and Areas will need to ensure that any additional music programming is timetabled in cohorts to avoid the sharing of equipment and ensure social distancing.
9. Frontier School Division recognizes the additional safety and vulnerability of our respected Knowledge Keepers and Elders when it comes to transmission of COVID-19. School Leaders and staff should take additional care and precaution when scheduling school-based support. Schools are encouraged to connect with the Indigenous Way of Life Department regarding additional protocols.

C. Student and Family Preparedness

Frontier School Division will communicate re-entry by:

1. Communication with parents, guardians and community needs to be thorough, streamlined and predictable. This will include the following:
 - a. Frontier School Division will post information regarding a return to school on our Division website, social media pages (including Facebook and Twitter).
 - b. Where applicable schools will print hard copy versions of this correspondence to send home in the mail.
 - c. Depending on the community, the local radio station and/or television station may be utilized to communicate details of a return to school plan for families and community members.
 - d. Support staff may be utilized to help deliver print information to families and community regarding the return to school plan.
 - e. Schools will ensure families, students and community are aware of the symptoms of COVID-19 and the Provincial COVID-19 Screening Tool. Additionally, students may only return to in-class learning if they are symptom-free and show no signs of COVID-19. Please reference provincial document; "COVID-19 K-12 School Settings Practice Guidance and Protocols" for additional information regarding the protocol for what happens if a child exhibits symptoms while at school.
 - f. Schools will send home communication regularly during 2020-21 to update family members regarding ongoing procedures, protocols and advise of any changes that may have come about as a result of Provincial health directives.
 - g. Schools may consider posting school-based information regarding COVID-19 in highly frequented community spaces (i.e. community centres, Council office(s), Northern Store, etc.). This may include but isn't limited to information about transportation, scheduling, and safety procedures.

D. School Staff Preparedness

Frontier School Division will ensure a safe return to work by:

1. Staff returning to work in Frontier School Division from out of Province will follow public health directives regarding self-isolation.
2. Frontier School Division expects that all teachers will follow local community-based safety and health guidelines and protocol when returning to their school community.
4. Custodial staff and bus drivers will return to work as deemed necessary in order to ensure cleanliness of schools and buses prior to teachers, support staff and students returning to school.
5. If a Frontier staff member with a pre-existing and diagnosed health condition believes they are at a greater risk for COVID-19 and are requesting work accommodations, they will notify their direct supervisor immediately. The direct supervisor and Human Resources will work together with this staff member to determine the necessary accommodations.
6. Staff are expected to self-monitor daily for signs and symptoms of COVID-19. Please reference Provincial Document; “COVID-19 K-12 School Settings Practice Guidance and Protocols” for additional information regarding Screening for staff.
7. Staff who are exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 will stay home from work.
8. Please reference section “Health Concerns and How to Address them; What Happens if a Staff Member Exhibits Symptoms” in the “COVID-19 K-12 School Settings Practice Guidance and Protocols” document for additional information on how to proceed if a staff member or school visitor becomes ill while at school.

Frontier School Division has engaged in community stakeholder consultation by:

1. Actively collaborating with the Regional Health Authority regarding two (2) student residences (Frontier Collegiate and Engaged Learners) regarding best practices, additional health and safety guidelines, etc.
2. Readily collaborating with Manitoba Keewatoni Okimakanak Inc. (MKO) to receive feedback and suggestions regarding our school re-entry plan to ensure that it is representative of community needs across Northern Manitoba.
3. Continuing to work together, respect and adhere to the local decision making of Chief and Council and/or Mayor and Council regarding community closures.



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Excellence and Experience in Education

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