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VIA EMAIL

October 30, 2020

TO: ALL EMPLOYEES

FROM: Reg Klassen
Chief Superintendent

RE: NEW UPDATE – Restricted Level (Orange) for K-12 Schools

Today the Provincial Health Officer Dr. Roussin announced the continued increase in the number of Covid-19 cases across Manitoba.

Please be advised that **all schools in Frontier School Division, as of Monday, November 2, 2020, will operate at the Restricted Level (Orange).** Please see October 23, 2020 memo attached.

At today's announcement and during question and answer period, Dr. Roussin stated that:

- Schools continue to be the safest place in the community,
- There are no examples of in-school transmission, and
- Safeguards are in place in schools; and they will be kept open as long as it is safe to do so.

It is important to reiterate that:

- There has been no school-level transmission among Frontier K-12 schools.
- Co-horts, alternating days for students, and other public health measures have been and continue to be effective in mitigating the risk of transmission and informing contact tracing.
- Schools, including administrators, teachers and staff, have implemented the public health measures consistently and have handled confirmed cases with responsiveness, confidence and a great deal of professionalism.

We continue to adhere to the importance of school connectedness as a significant protective factor. We believe that students who feel connected to their school have a sense of belonging which is critical for academic success and personal well-being. We also continue to believe that the best place for this to occur is at school.

Frontier School Division leadership will continue to maintain regular and consistent contact with local Pandemic Teams in order to support safety within those communities.

I want to thank and congratulate each of you for the work you continue to do for educational programming and school safety. Have a well-deserved weekend, and a safe and Happy Halloween.

RK/dsl

c. Frontier School Division Board of Trustees

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VIA EMAIL

October 23, 2020

**TO: PRINCIPALS
SUPERINTENDENT GROUP**

**FROM: Reg Klassen
Chief Superintendent**

RE: REVISED UPDATE – Restricted Level (Orange) for K-12 Schools

Yesterday I received a call from the Deputy Minister of Education informing me that an announcement was imminent that schools in the Northern Health Region and Churchill would move to Restricted Level (Orange) for K-12 (see attached), and this would take effect Monday, October 26, 2020. Two significant aspects of this Orange level are that students are expected to be 2 metres apart to the greatest extent possible, and that K-8 Temporary Remote learning may be made available. Many of our schools have already achieved a form of remote learning by implementing an alternate day schedule for students.

What we do know according to Public Health and education in Frontier School Division is that:

- There has been no school-level transmission among Frontier K–12 schools.
- Cohorts, alternating days for students, and other public health measures have been effective in mitigating the risk of transmission and informing contact tracing.
- Schools, including administrators, teachers and staff, have implemented the public health measures consistently and have handled confirmed cases in schools with responsiveness, confidence, and a great deal of professionalism.

While no transmission is occurring in our schools at this point, these additional public health measures are critical to ensure Frontier School Division responds to the current risks and conditions given the rising number of community cases.

We know that these measures do not apply to the schools in Frontier that are located outside of the Northern Health Region. However, with an abundance of caution, it is strongly recommended that Frontier schools located outside of the Northern Health Region work towards achieving all the expectations in the attached Restricted Level (Orange) for K-12 Schools with the exception of the K-8 Temporary Remote Learning.

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We know that school connectedness is a significant protective factor for all students. Students who feel connected to their school have a sense of belonging which is critical for academic success and personal well-being. The best place for this to occur is at school.

However, it is also recognized that many communities in Frontier are unique and have a Pandemic Planning Team that the local school is collaborating with. Having said that, we know there are a wide variety of circumstances and/or situations where K-8 Temporary Remote learning may need to be provided in your school. One such example would be some variation of a community lockdown that has implications for the school. Should your school have Temporary Remote learning situations please remind parents/guardians it is important they are home to facilitate and monitor their child's learning progress. Children learning at home comes with a great deal of responsibility for parents/guardians. It is important to be reminded that our goal always is to have students in school, their best opportunity for learning.

Principals of schools located in the Northern Health Region who are in a Temporary Remote Learning situation, will need to plan with their staff how best to attend to the needs of students in school and at home. Please discuss your plans with your Area Superintendent before implementing them.

Finally, the attached document states 'all field trips are postponed or cancelled'. As a school division we believe the continued use of our 'living classroom' (the outdoors) is imperative for our student's learning, growth, and development. Therefore, we are encouraging schools to continue to take students outdoors for on-the-land and cultural teachings in or close to the community. Schools are reminded to ensure that Higher Care Trip forms are submitted if required; student groups remain small, allow for physical distancing including transportation requirements, and have sanitization equipment on hand.



Reg Klassen
Chief Superintendent

RK/dsl

c. Frontier School Division Board of Trustees

attachment