



Vermillion School

Vermillion Colony, Sanford MB R0G 2J0
P (204) 736-4223

Introduction

The following is Vermillion Colony School's return to school plan based on the Government of Manitoba's announcement for September 2020 and the Red River Valley School Division Plan for Reopening document. Our staff have been busy working to make appropriate plans to allow the safe return of students in response to this next phase. The Chief Provincial Public Health Officer and School Division have provided direction and guidelines in order to have students return safely to school. We want to assure everyone that the staff at Vermillion Colony School is making plans based upon the recommendations from Manitoba Health and the School Division. Our school staff are planning for the return of students to the school with the priority remaining the safety and well-being of students and staff. We deeply appreciate the patience, co-operation and support that families have provided as we navigate these changing conditions.

Return

The students at Vermillion Colony will return to in-school learning on Tuesday September 15th.

Remote Learning for Students with Medical Accommodation

For students who are medically advised not to return to in-class learning due to COVID-19 related factors - this option can be available if health care providers have concern for immediate family members in a shared household that can not physically distance. Parents and caregivers must consult with health care providers on the need for an accommodation. A medical note/short form is required by the school division. Please contact your local school if a medical accommodation is required.

Visitor Access

Visitor access will be limited and managed through the school office. All doors at the school will be locked during the school day.

All visitors will be required to provide information for tracing purposes.



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Symptom and Exposure Screening

Symptom and exposure screening must occur at the start of each day.

Staff are self-monitoring daily for signs and symptoms of COVID-19. Staff who have any symptoms of COVID-19 will stay home, isolate, and be excluded from work.

Parents and caregivers must monitor their child daily for symptoms and exposures before sending them to school. Parents and caregivers are responsible for ensuring their children are not displaying symptoms before sending them to school.

A student or staff member who meets any of the exclusion criteria will not be admitted to the school and will be advised to immediately isolate and consult Health Links-Info Santé or their health-care provider. Those with symptoms should be tested. If the test is negative for COVID-19, they can return 24 hours after symptoms resolve. If individuals do not get tested, they should isolate for 14 days from symptom onset, and they may return if symptoms have resolved at that time.

A chronic stable cough, sneeze, runny nose or nasal congestion that is unchanged and clearly linked to a known medical condition such as asthma or allergies, is not an absolute requirement for exclusion. As well, children who are crying can exhibit a runny nose. Changing or worsening of chronic symptoms require isolation and contacting Health Links-Info Santé. Parents/Caregivers and staff should exercise judgement based on the symptoms, but when in doubt, err on the side of caution and contact Health Links-Info Santé or their health-care provider.

Parents and staff will focus on monitoring for symptoms of COVID-19, as outlined in the Screening Tool and poster at <http://sharedhealthmb.ca/covid19/screening-tool>.

Masks

Students in Grades 4-12 are required to wear masks at school. Students should bring at least 2 or more clean masks to school everyday.

All students from Kindergarten to Grade 3 are encouraged to wear masks.

Non-medical masks should not be worn by anyone who:

- Is unable to remove the mask without assistance (e.g. due to age, ability or developmental status)
- Has breathing difficulties



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Increased Cleaning and Disinfecting

Increased frequency of cleaning, disinfecting and sanitizing - particularly on high-touch surfaces and in common/shared areas - is being implemented school wide.

This school is:

- Disinfecting commonly touched surfaces (e.g., doorknobs, light switches, electronic devices, chairs, desks, art supplies, toys, games, gym equipment, tools and equipment) frequently - at least twice daily, or more often as needed.
- Increasing monitoring of hand-cleaning supplies to ensure an ample supply at all sinks in washrooms and kitchen areas.
- Ensuring washrooms are cleaned and disinfected frequently (at least twice daily, and more often as needed) and stagger use.

Hand Washing/Sanitizing

Hand washing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds is the recommended hand hygiene practice. Staff and students will engage in frequent hand washing or sanitizing, including at the following times:

- The start of the day and before going home
- Before and after recess
- After going to the washroom and helping children with washroom routines
- Before and after preparing food
- Before eating or drinking
- After getting hands dirty
- After wiping nose or handling dirty tissues
- After coughing, sneezing or blowing nose
- After soothing a crying child
- Before and after putting on and taking off a mask
- After cleaning tasks

School staff will help young children to ensure handwashing is done correctly.

Hand sanitizer is available at all building access points and throughout the facility. Respiratory etiquette will be modelled, taught and reinforced regularly. This includes coughing and sneezing into a tissue or sleeve, as well as properly and promptly disposing of any used tissues, and exercising proper hand hygiene.

Signage is posted and highly visible and includes visual cues that remind staff and children to perform hand hygiene (e.g., sneezing or coughing into their elbow, putting used tissues in a waste receptacle, and washing hands or using hand sanitizer immediately after using tissues).



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Physical Distancing

The school is unable to meet the 2-metre social distancing recommendation due to the size of classes and classrooms. We are adopting the 1-metre minimum distancing of students recommendation. Students will remain in one classroom and a 1-metre distance will be instituted in the classroom configuration.

Hallway movement will be limited and wall and floor signage will help students and staff maintain a 2-metre distance in hallways.

Physical Education/Health

Physical Education/Health classes will be run outside as long as weather conditions permit. Parents will need to ensure students have appropriate wear and equipment for the weather.

Closed Campus

In order to protect the integrity of the school for the safety of our students, Red River Valley School Division is adopting a Closed Campus model. This model will allow students to enter and exit the school division property twice per day (once in the morning and once after lunch). As a result, if a student leaves the school for whatever reason before dismissal time, that student will not be allowed to return to the school that day.

Staff COVID-19 Orientation

All staff will be provided with an orientation prior to the return of students to the classroom.