

Christian Heritage School Re-Opening Plan



September 2020

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Christian Heritage School (CHS) Plan for 2020-2021

Praise Jesus! We are excited to have students and staff back at CHS.

We are following the K-12 Guidelines from Manitoba Education's plan, [Welcoming Our Students Back: Restoring Safe Schools](#), to help students learn to live and study safely at MB schools amidst the COVID-19 pandemic. The safety, health, and well-being of students, staff, families, and guests is of utmost importance to us at CHS. We will do our best to [prepare for and prevent](#) the spread of COVID-19.

Manitobans will be living with COVID-19 for the foreseeable future. It is in the best interest of children to be in school, and we must mitigate the effects of COVID-19 on students and families to ensure that learning and assessment continues for all. A provincial document for [frequently asked questions by parents](#) is available.

Manitoba Education's guiding principles and priorities for restoring safe schools are:

- Safety, health and well-being for all students, staff and families;
- High quality learning and assessment for all students;
- Accessible, trauma-informed resources and supports for students, parents and caregivers;
- Consistent, reliable and appropriate connection to school learning and belonging, for every student, regardless of location, barriers, special needs or challenges; and
- System-wide communication and collaboration to promote consistent approaches throughout the province.

All CHS staff will be oriented to public health requirements and educational priorities and will prepare for recovery learning from September 2nd to 4th (3 non-instructional days), in order to best support students this school year. **All of our students will return for in-class instruction 5 days per week beginning Tuesday September 8th. (Mrs. Campbell sent out the slow-entry schedule for Kindergarten students).**

Communication, screening, enhanced hand hygiene, physical distancing, use of cohorts and outbreak management will be paramount in keeping as many students as possible in school this fall and throughout the pandemic. We will minimize risk to the greatest extent possible.

Public Health Measures

CHS will follow [up-to-date public health](#) measures and guidance. Proactive measures will minimize the risk of transmission and limit the impact of a case within the school, if it occurs. The proactive measures are:

Symptom Screening

Parents are responsible to ensure their children are not displaying symptoms before sending them to school by [Symptom Screening](#). Students with symptoms at school will be separated from others and parents will be called to pick up the student immediately.

Staff are responsible for self-screening. Screening protocols will be in place for anyone entering the school. Posters and other signage will be near school entrances.

Hand Hygiene

- Hand sanitizer dispensers are at each entrance of the school and in each room of the school. We will follow the practice of “Clean Hands In, Clean Hands Out” – anytime students or staff enter a room or leave a room, they will use hand sanitizer.
- Staff and students will practice hand hygiene frequently, washing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or using hand sanitizer, at the following times:
 - at the start of the day and before going home;
 - after going to the washroom;
 - before preparing food;
 - before and after eating;
 - after getting hands dirty;
 - after wiping noses or handling dirty tissues;
 - after coughing, sneezing, or blowing nose; and
 - after cleaning tasks (staff).

Physical Distancing

- Two meters (2m) of physical distancing is required, to the greatest extent possible. When this is not possible, students must remain one meter (1m) from one another. Manitoba Education recognizes that strict physical distancing at all times, particularly with young children, is not practical in the school setting. The purpose of cohorts is to limit the mixing of students so that if a child or employee develops an infection, there are fewer possible exposures and contact tracing can be more easily done.
- Cohorts (assigned groups of students) are another important proactive measure that we are using to help mitigate risk and limit possible exposure. Cohorts will distance themselves from other groups. The following cohorts were created at CHS due to the physical layout of the school (proximity of classrooms and entrances/exits, and hallway traffic flow to avoid congestion).
 - K's, 1's, and 2's are a cohort, including teachers.
 - 3's, 6's, 7's, and 8's are a cohort, including teachers.
 - 4's and 5's are a cohort, including teachers.

Cohorts must be able to arrive, depart, and participate in school activities without comingling as much as possible with members from other cohorts. Cohorts will avoid being in shared spaces at the same time. They must maintain four meters (4m) distance with other cohorts, as much as possible. Teachers will move from classroom to classroom rather than students moving, as much as possible.

- Floor and sidewalk markings will be used to outline physical distancing requirements, particularly where students must line-up.
- Signage will be in place to promote the recommended physical distancing.
- Some physical barriers will be used when physical distancing is not possible.

Shared/Common Spaces

- We will monitor school entrances and exits to avoid congestion.
- Washrooms will be cleaned daily over the lunch break and after school hours.
- Water fountains will not be accessible except for our water-bottle filler (students must each have their own labelled water bottle).
- We will encourage the use of outdoor spaces and activities.
- We will avoid sharing items to the greatest extent possible.
- We will remove toys and other items that are not easily cleaned.
- Field trips, assemblies and other large events will not be scheduled unless public health requirements can be met.

Bus Transportation

- All drivers and passengers must wear masks.
- Students will have assigned seats.
- Students may sit beside each other if they are siblings or part of the same cohort.
- The provincial guidelines can be found here: [Bus Transportation](#).
- High-touch surfaces in the bus will be cleaned between trips.

Individuals with Symptoms

- If students develop symptoms while at school, they will be isolated in a predetermined space (chair in the office corner). They will be at least two meters away from others. “Staff should exercise judgment based on the symptoms, but when in doubt, err on the side of caution by excluding the child and advising the parent or caregiver to contact Health Links – Info Sante or their health care provider” (Welcoming Our Students Back, pp. 10-11).
 - A medical-grade mask will be provided to and worn by the sick student, unless there are safety issues that prevent the student from wearing a mask.
 - If the student is young and requires close contact and care while isolated, staff (wearing a mask) can continue to care for the child until the parent is able to pick up the child.
- Parents will be notified to come pick up their child immediately. It will be recommended that they contact Health Links – Info Sante at (204-788-8200 or 1-888-315-9257) or the child’s health care provider for direction, if required.
 - If parents choose not to consult public health or their health care provider, the student must self-isolate for 14 days and be symptom free, before returning.

- If the parents consult public health or their health care provider, they must follow the direction provided. Students can return to school 24 hours after they are symptom-free, after following the health care provider's instructions.
- If staff or volunteers become symptomatic at school, they will immediately isolate themselves from other staff and students, notify the office, and go home to monitor symptoms. It is recommended that they contact Health Links – Info Sante at (204-788-8200 or 1-888-315-9257) and follow public health advice before returning to work.
 - If they choose not to consult public health or their health care provider, they must self-isolate for 14 days from symptoms onset before returning to work.
- If a member of a household is sick or awaiting a COVID-19 test result, other household members can continue to attend school if they are not symptomatic.
- If a member of a house receives a positive COVID-19 test result, public health will contact the family and the school and lead the response.
- A chronic stable cough, sneeze, runny nose or nasal congestion that is unchanged and clearly linked to a known medical condition such as asthmas 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.

Contact Tracing and Outbreak Management

In the event of confirmation of a case of COVID-19 connected with a school, public health will lead the response and provide guidance, including ensuring appropriate supports are in place to coordinate the response. Contact tracing involves identifying the contacts of a positive case and contacting those individuals who may have been exposed. Public health will advise staff and students if they have been in close contact, if they need to self-isolate or self-monitor and when they can return to school.

Personal Risk Factors

Accommodations will be made for students, teachers, administrators and school staff who are at higher risk of COVID-19 due to underlying health conditions or other risk factors.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

- All grade 4-8 students must wear non-medical masks when they are inside the school, unless they are 2m away from others in their classroom or while they are eating (cannot be facing someone else if within 2m).
- Masks must be worn in hallways.
- Masks must be worn outside from drop off to the classroom at the start of the day.
- Masks must be worn from the classroom to the parent vehicle at the end of the day.
- Parents must provide masks for their child(ren).
- CHS will stock re-useable cloth masks to provide grade 4-8 students if they forget theirs or it becomes unusable at school.
- Younger students can wear masks also (K-3's) if their parents provide them.

- While outside, grade 4-8 students do not need to wear masks (but must still physical distance themselves from others).
- All staff members need to wear masks inside the school, unless they are physically distancing themselves from their own students in their classroom (2m), are alone in their room/office, or they are eating.
- Tutorial videos will be shown to students and staff so that they know [how to wear masks](#) properly and the safe (without contamination) donning (putting on) and doffing (taking off) mask procedures.
- [Donning masks video](#).
- [Doffing masks video](#).

Recess/Breaks

- Public Health advises that playgrounds and play structures are low risk for transmission. There are no recommended specific requirements for cleaning play structures.
- We will maintain separate containers of equipment for each cohort of student.
- Zones will be marked and contact among groups will be avoided.
- Hand hygiene will be performed before and after recess.
- Students must bring their own lunches.
- Sharing food or water bottles is not allowed.

Cleaning

- Frequency of cleaning, disinfecting, and sanitizing, particularly high-touch surfaces and common/shared areas, will be at least twice a day.
- We will ensure hand cleaning supplies are stocked at all times.

Visitors and Volunteers

CHS will minimize visitors and volunteers. When their presence is necessary, visitors and volunteers must follow all public health measures. They will sign in and out at the office and each classroom they enter/exit.

School Day Structure and Learning Plan

School Day Structure

- Parents drop off students between 8:25-8:35am.
- When students are dropped off, they need to walk down their designated cohort pathway to proceed to their assigned waiting area and practice physical distancing before being allowed into the school. Staggered entry will begin at 8:35am.
- The supervisor will allow students inside the school to avoid congestion.
- Students are expected to use the same pathway for pick-up and drop-off daily. A map has been provided to staff and families. Students will practice while at school.
- K-2 students will have their breaks at different times than the rest of the students, in order to decrease congestion in hallways and bathrooms, and on the playground.

- A maximum of 3 students will be allowed in the boys' and girls' bathrooms at a time.
- K-6 Music and K-8 PE classes will continue.
- Music classes will adhere to the [Guidelines for Vocalists and Instrumentalists](#).
- PE classes and recreational sports at CHS will adhere to the [Sports Guidelines](#) provided by the Province.
- Field trips or outings are permitted, but will require enhanced planning and communication with students, parents, and public health.
- Grade 7/8 band classes and shop and home ec. classes have been suspended by Brandon School Division.
- Lockers will be used as little as possible, without congestion.
- Parents pick up students between 3:30-3:50pm. Students will be in their waiting areas and will be called by the supervisor to go to the appropriate vehicle. Gr. K,1,2,4,5s are dismissed at 3:30pm and gr. 3,6,7,8 are dismissed at 3:35pm.

Attendance

- All students are expected to participate fully, even when remote learning is required. Students will be assessed on their work, reflective of their performance and learning.
- Because students must stay home when they are sick, teachers will be prepared with a Google Classroom to post assignments (Gr. 3-8). K-2's will receive print packages.

Supports for Students with Special Needs

There are unique challenges experienced by students with special needs during this time. We will:

- update student specific learning plans;
- accommodate the needs of students who require significant personal support.
- [Guidelines on Supporting Students Who Require Interventions or Supports that Cannot be Delivered at a Distance](#) will be utilized as necessary.

Learning Plan

Maximizing in-class learning while maintaining a focus on safety and reducing the risk of transmission is the goal of the upcoming school year. Plans may change based on the advice of public health at any time. Manitoba Education's framework to resume in-class learning in 2020-2021 identifies three re-opening levels:

- Level 1: In-class Learning
 - Classroom learning is open for all students.
 - All required courses/subjects prioritized.
- Level 2: Blended Learning
 - A combination of Teacher-directed in-class (students with special needs will be prioritized) and remote learning depending on the added public health measures at that time.
 - All required courses/subjects prioritized.

- Regular contact with all students will be facilitated.
- Remote learning standards will be articulated clearly.
- Level 3: Remote Learning
 - In-class learning is suspended. Teacher-directed remote learning for all students (except K-6 students of critical workers).
 - The focus is on literacy, numeracy, and other curricular areas as time and resources permit.
 - Regular contact with all students will be facilitated.
 - Remote learning standards will be articulated clearly.
 - We will ensure all students have access to learning resources, including technology.

All students are expected to participate fully, even when remote learning is required. Students will be assessed on their work, reflective of their performance and learning. We will ensure that all students who are participating in remote learning have access to technology. Manitoba Education believes that schools are critical to the mental health and well-being of children and they will do their best, as understood, to keep students in schools.

Recovery Learning

Teacher to teacher transition meetings will ensure that teachers are prepared for each student. Students will need an opportunity to adjust to new school routines and expectations. Also, some students had lower participation in remote learning than others and teachers will need to be creative to address the achievement/learning gaps that may exist.

Regular check-ins and assessment will play an important role in supporting student's well-being and helping students to learn to the greatest extent possible. [Guidelines on Supporting Students Who Require Interventions or Supports that Cannot be Delivered at a Distance](#) will be utilized as necessary.

There is recognition of the value and importance of professional learning as part of the pandemic response planning. A focus will be placed on recovery learning, remote learning, mental health and well-being.

Institutional Preparedness

CHS Institutional Changes and Upgrades

- Touchless taps installed in bathrooms.
- Touchless paper towel dispensers installed in bathrooms.
- Girls' and boys' bathroom doors have been removed to avoid touch points after washing hands (privacy is not compromised).
- Two additional hallway hand washing sinks installed.
- Physical barrier installed in linkage to separate students as they enter/exit the school.
- Posters and other signage (ie. Hand hygiene, cough etiquette, physical distancing graphics, etc.) posted around the school.

- Specific playground zones marked with stakes and rope or metal fencing.
- Floor/sidewalk markings.
- Water fountains shut off.
- Ventilation monitored (ceiling vents opened, air exchangers inspected, filters cleaned).
- Cleaning and sanitization supplies are well-stocked.
- Staff members are responsible for disinfecting their own equipment and workspaces.
- Fire Drills will be conducted grade by grade to avoid congestion.

Mental Health and Well-Being of Students and Staff

Student and staff mental health and well-being are some of the core elements of the re-opening plan. We will ensure a welcoming environment that supports learning. Orientation activities will be part of the school start up for staff and students.

Children want to be heard. They do not need detailed information about events, but they do need to talk about their feelings. Let them know that they can ask questions. Answer questions honestly, but make sure that the information is suitable for their age level. If answers are not known, it is okay to say so and to look for resources together that can answer their questions. Children are often listening when others are talking about COVID-19. Staff will minimize discussions of COVID-19 that are not related to the specific setting.

Resources, such as [Listen, Protect, Connect, Model, and Teach](#) and [The North American Centre for Threat Assessment and Trauma Response Guidelines for Re-Entry](#), among others will be used to support students and staff throughout the pandemic.

Pandemic Response System

In August, 2020, the Manitoba government introduced the [Pandemic Response System](#) to set out specific and focused public health responses depending on the risk of the virus. Below is an overview of the four levels.

GREEN: Limited Risk

- Classroom learning continues for all K-8 students.
- School bus continues to operate normally.

YELLOW: Caution

- Classroom learning continues for all K-8 students.
- School bus continues to operate normally. All drivers and passengers wear masks.
- Students from the same household or cohort may sit beside each other.
- We have public health measures in place.
 - Hand hygiene
 - Physical Distancing
 - Established Cohorts

- Assigned and controlled entrances and exits for specified cohorts
- Students must be sitting at least 1 m (3 ft) apart from each other in the same room.
- Masks worn by grade 4-8 students and all adults when they cannot physically distance
- Additional cleaning and disinfecting implemented

ORANGE: Restricted

- Public Health measures will be followed
- Increased restrictions for K-8 student attendance
 - Students must be sitting 2 m (6 ft) apart from each other in the same room.
 - The Music room will be used as a classroom if necessary.
- Priority will be given to core curriculum
- School bus operation will be assessed. Only students from the same household can sit beside each other.

RED: Critical

- The school will be closed except for K-6 students who are children of critical workers, which includes teachers.
- K-6 Teachers will be at school.
- Teacher-led remote learning will be implemented.
- Our school bus will not be operating.