

2020-21 Re-Opening School Plan

Riverside Colony School

As we prepare to re-open schools on September 8, 2020 in Beautiful Plains School Division, we continue to prioritize the safety, health and well-being of our communities by doing our part to reduce the spread of COVID-19. With the advice from our Chief Medical Officer and Manitoba Education, Riverside Colony School is planning to maximize health and mitigate risk proportionate to the level of COVID-19 infection determined by Manitoba Health.

As we continue to live in an unprecedented time with the pandemic, this plan assists in navigating responses to possible questions for the upcoming school year. **All levels support continued learning for students in BPSD for the 20-21 academic school year.** Our school plan provides some specific details regarding the school day structure. For additional information on practices such as cleaning protocols, helpful definitions (ex. Physical distancing, cohorts, blended learning), and the [BPSD screening tool](#) you can refer to our BPSD Restoring Safe Schools document found on our divisional website.

On July 30, 2020, the [provincial announcement](#) indicated that level 1 will be followed based on MB public health guidelines for September. Announcements regarding any changes to levels will be posted on the BPSD website.

MB Education Response Levels	
Level 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All K-12 students return for in-class learning. • Grade 9-12 students will be in-class to the greatest extent possible. Blended learning for high school students may vary from school to school
Level 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • K-8 students are prioritized for in-class learning • Grade 9-12 will participate in teacher-led remote learning, with limited use of school facilities for specific programming and assessment.
Level 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remote learning in place for all grades, • Schools are closed to the public with the exception of Kindergarten to Grade 6 students of critical workers

Welcoming Our Students Back

Hello! My name is Bryce Unger and I am excited to be teaching at Riverside Colony School this year and am excited to welcome our students back for a new school year! I am proud to have grown up and worked on the family farm in the Arden area and am currently living just 5 miles from Riverside Colony with my wife and 3-month-old son. I was fortunate to have the opportunity to visit during the past year as a substitute teacher and get to know a few of you and

I'm looking forward to getting to know all the students and their families in the upcoming year. As the first day of school continues to get closer, I will be contacting families to set up timeslots for each family to come into the school for introductions and to answer any questions they may have on September 3rd or September 4th. This year will bring different challenges than any other year before but what doesn't change is our dedication to providing safe student learning in an inclusive and compassionate environment. Should any communication regarding the school plan be necessary, there will be contact with home via phone call, a note home with students or through WhatsApp messages.

Requirements for Student/Staff Attendance

Students and staff must be in good health to attend school. Before leaving for school each day, parents need to use the BPSD MB Covid-19 Screening Tool using the following guidelines:

- If a student/staff shows any symptoms, they must stay home
- Students are expected to notify the school if they are feeling ill at school; for any students who start showing any symptoms at school, parents will be contacted and students will need to go home
- Students need to remain at home until there are no symptoms and they have been advised it is safe to return
- Staff will be greeting students at the door for classroom entry to screen for any visible physical symptoms
- Students/staff must self-isolate for 14 days if they have travelled outside MB excluding western Canada, the Territories or Ontario west of Terrance Bay. Please contact the school to indicate the reason for absence.
- Students will need to stay in assigned area unless directed otherwise by staff
- Please refer to [BPSD student attendance expectations](#) for additional information

Reporting and Contact Tracing for Covid-19

If a person in the household has been diagnosed with COVID-19, they are required to consult [Health Links](#) prior to attending and follow their directions. In the event of a student or household member reports that they have received a positive test for COVID-19:

- The parent/guardian will immediately advise the school principal, who will then notify the superintendent
- To facilitate contact tracing, we record attendance regularly and accurately. This includes maintaining a daily log of all visitors and itinerant staff who access the building
- As required by public health, we will provide contact information for other students or staff who are "close contacts" of the individual receiving the positive test result
- Public health officials will communicate with close contacts and advise the wider school community. As a school, we are not permitted to communicate this information without specific direction from public health officials
- Contact tracing involves identifying the contacts of a positive case and contacting those individuals who may have been exposed.
- Public health will identify cohorts/groups of staff, students, volunteers, and visitors in the school for a specified timeframe and contact students, staff, and families if they

- have been in close contact with a confirmed/probable case to determine whether they need to self-isolate or self-monitor and when they can return to school
- Public health will recommend testing to staff, students, volunteers, and visitors who may have been exposed to a positive case and assess the need for the school to be closed for a period of time
 - We will clean and disinfect areas where exposures took place; these areas will not be used until they are determined to be safe.
 - If there is an outbreak at a school, this will be announced through Manitoba media bulletins and public health will provide instructions to those who have been in close contact.

Personal Hygiene and Respiratory Etiquette

Please help us teach our students about proper hygiene and respiratory etiquette. You can do this at home:

- MB Public health recommends masks as an additional layer of protection. We encourage mask use when possible. **Staff, visitors and students in grades 4-12 are required to wear a mask when maintaining a physical distance of 2m (6 feet) is not possible.**
- Remind them to wash their hands with soap and water regularly and especially
 - After coughing or sneezing
 - Before and after eating
 - After toilet use
 - When hands are visibly dirty
- Ensure they cover their mouth and nose with a tissue or into their sleeve. Throw out tissues in the garbage and then immediately wash hands or use alcohol-based hand sanitizer
- Remind students to avoid touching face (eyes, nose mouth) with unwashed hands
- We have hand sanitizer available at our entrances and around the school. Please remind your child to use the sanitizer when entering and leaving the school and classroom
- Students/staff presenting symptoms at school will be sent home or re-located to the isolation room located in the spare room adjacent to the classroom.

Student Well-Being

Student and staff well-being is a priority for us as we navigate through this pandemic together. If you have any concerns regarding your child, please contact the school and we will work with your family to provide the resources and assistance as best we can. For general information on mental health and well-being, our [divisional website](#) has a list of online resources that are being updated regularly.

Beautiful Plains School Division Priorities

- Well-Being of students, families and staff
- Maintaining connections between school staff and students
- Prioritizing literacy and numeracy focusing on essential outcomes

Details	September 2020
Cohorts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each group of students placed together in a class is a cohort with the school's goal to limit the mixing of cohorts for few possible exposures and easier contact tracing • Cohorts are no more than 75 students in a space at the same time; since our population is less than 75 students, our whole school will be considered one cohort. • Please see the MB Restoring Safe Schools document for additional details
Arrival and Dismissal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To reduce crowding, students are required to enter and exit the school one at a time in a single file manner while maintaining a 2m distance from other students while entering or exiting the school or while they are waiting to do so • Classes will begin at 9:00am. • When students arrive they will be asked to sanitize their hands and the teacher will check for any noticeable physical symptoms. • Students will be dismissed at 3:30pm. • Students will be asked to sanitize their hands before leaving the school.
Movement of Students	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each group of students will have a designated work area in the school • When moving to other areas of the school, students will be sent in one at a time or with their sibling(s). • Regular in-class movement breaks, recess, and Phys. Ed classes will continue. • Indoor or outdoor non-contact sports (e.g., tennis, soccer) may occur with physical distancing during the play, except for brief exchanges of close contact as recommended by Public Health and MB education. • Any field trips that occur will be entirely voluntary and accompanied by appropriate parental permission. Enhanced planning for field trips will ensure that all public health guidelines are met.
Recess/ Breaks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recess/breaks will occur from 10:15-10:30am and 2:00-2:15pm. • Staff members will ensure that hand washing or hand hygiene is performed before and after each recess.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students will be dismissed for lunch at 11:25am and will return for afternoon classes at 12:30pm. • Students will be asked to wash their hands with soap and water before leaving for lunch and to sanitize their hands when returning to the school for the afternoon. • Playground equipment will be washed down after each use if possible
Classroom	
Classroom Configuration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our classroom arrangements support physical distancing • Outdoor spaces are also being used when possible • Hand sanitizer or hand washing will be used for entry and exit from the classroom
Instruction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student-contact time is being prioritized • We are focusing on teaching outcomes rather than the amount of time per subject (a cross-curricular approach is recommended) • Based on MB education’s guidelines, we are prioritizing essential outcomes in literacy and numeracy in all areas • Gym classes will continue with playing and learning outdoors encouraged as much as possible. Any equipment that must be shared will be sanitized between classes • The teacher will be preparing for possible class cancellations by creating work packages that will be made available to take home if needed
School Supplies and Personal Belongings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students supplies will be labeled with their name and organized into personal containers • Based on current public health guidelines, all students from grades 4-12 are required to wear a non-medical mask when 2-meter distancing cannot be adhered to. • If possible, please send your child with a mask as there will be occasions when they will need them. If your child does not have a mask, one will be provided at the school. • For any materials that need to be shared, students will hand wash/sanitize before and after use. Materials will also be sanitized after use