



WMCI September 2021 Re-Opening: Cautionary Yellow

William Morton Collegiate staff members are excited to be able to welcome students back to school full-time for the 2021-22 school year.

The school will open to students on Wednesday, September 8th under a Cautionary Yellow Provincial Order. This means there are required COVID-19 safety protocols that must be followed by all students and staff. In this document are found highlights of the operating orders and guidelines the school will follow to begin the school year. The complete set of Provincial orders and guidelines the school will follow can be found at the [Restoring Safe Schools website](#), and in the documents [Restoring Safe Schools: Planning Guide for 2021-22 School Year](#), and [Restoring Safe Schools: A Guide for Parents, Caregivers and Students](#).

In addition to those Provincial orders governing the operation of schools, a website listing Provincial health orders pertaining to public conduct can be found at <https://www.gov.mb.ca/covid19/prs/orders/index.html>.

If you have any questions about what you read in this document, the Provincial orders and guidelines found at the aforementioned websites, or anything else, please feel free to call the school at 204-385-2845. Please note that the Provincial orders and guidelines regarding COVID-19 and schools are subject to change and can change quickly. Subsequently, the information found in this document, including its organization, may change. Informational changes will be communicated to WMCI families if they occur.

Screening/Self-Monitoring

- Daily self-screening and self-monitoring is essential to limit the transmission of COVID-19. Students and staff are expected to self-screen before coming to school each day. An online screening tool is available at: <https://sharedhealthmb.ca/covid19/screening-tool/>.
- Screening questions and protocols can be found here: https://www.gov.mb.ca/asset_library/en/coronavirus/covid19_screening_checklist.pdf.

All staff and students are asked to stay home if they are experiencing symptoms suggestive of COVID-19, including:

- cough
- sore throat
- fever
- weakness
- runny nose
- headache or body aches

Students and staff must self-isolate if they:

- have travelled outside of Manitoba in the past 14 days (outside of areas excluded by current health orders);
- are a close contact of a person who has tested positive for COVID-19;
- are awaiting the results of a test for COVID-19.

Cohorts/Grouping

Cohorts are not currently required for students from Grades 7-12, therefore there will be no class cohorting at WMCI to begin the year. If regulations change, cohorting and grouping rules at the school may change.

Building Entry/Exit

Though there is no class cohorting, current regulations require that, if feasible, schools use separate entry and exit points for different groups of students. Therefore, WMCI will apply the following entry/exit rules:

Grades 7 & 8 (and visiting Grade 6s):

- southwest doors (first set of doors on the west side of the building);

Grades 9 & 10:

- northwest doors (second set of doors on the west side of the building);

Grades 11 & 12:

- main entrance (south side of the building).

Any students arriving late are to use the main entrance.

Hygiene Practices

- Regular handwashing with soap and water for 15-20 seconds is recommended for everyone. Hand sanitizer stations are located throughout the school and can (and should) be used anytime and often.
- Students are expected to sanitize their hands when entering and exiting the school, before entering and exiting classrooms, before eating, after using a washroom, after handling equipment (in the gym or classroom), or after blowing one's nose.

- Coughing and sneezing should be into a tissue or sleeve. Personal items such as hats, hair brushes/combs, lip balm, or food and drinks, should not be shared with others.
- Students must have their own water bottles.

Sanitization at the School

- Custodial staff will disinfect washrooms and high-touch surfaces, such as doorknobs, railings or light switches at regular intervals throughout the day. Desks will be disinfected once per day.
- Shared equipment, such as that found in the gym, shop, or art room, will be sanitized between use by the students at the end of classes.

Ventilation

- Custodial staff will be attentive to ventilation issues.
- Classrooms with windows will have them open and all classroom doors will remain open as much as reasonably possible, including evenings, to allow airflow.

Masking and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

- Until further notice, according to the Manitoba Health order to mask in all indoor public spaces, students will be required to wear masks while in school and riding a school bus.
- Students may wear reusable/washable [masks](#) made with two layers of tightly woven fabric and a filter fabric between the layers.
- Masks are to completely cover both the nose and the mouth.
- All students are to wear a clean mask everyday. Masks are not to be shared.
- Mask breaks will be allowed at school when students are at least two meters apart.
- While outdoors, masks need not be worn.
- Students who endure health conditions which prevent them from wearing masks will not be required to wear them.

Physical Distancing (including washrooms, changerooms, lunchrooms, and hallways)

- Even when masked, efforts to maintain a one meter distance between students and staff should be made.
- Washroom access will be limited to three students at a time. Only one student per class will be able to leave to access a washroom. Change rooms will have a limit of five students at a time. Changing for Physical Education will be optional.
- Students may choose to eat lunch in their classrooms, the canteen area, or outdoors if weather permits. Students should separate themselves by two meters while eating.
- While moving through hallways, students will walk on the right side and distance themselves from others to the maximum extent possible.
- When seated in their classrooms, students will be required to wear their masks.
- Close greetings such as hugs and handshakes should be avoided.
- Fire and lockdown drills will be conducted to maximize student distances as students move about, exit or re-enter the building.

The School Day

Transition times between classes are five minutes. Transition time to the Block 4 class after lunch is two minutes. Students are dismissed at 3:20 PM and will board their busses by 3:30 PM.

Warning Bell	9:00 AM
Block 1	9:05 - 10:07 (62 mins)
Block 2	10:12 - 11:14 (62 mins)
Block 3	11:19 - 12:21 (62 mins)
LUNCH	12:21 - 1:06 (45 mins)
Block 4	1:08 - 2:11 (63 mins)
Block 5	2:16 - 3:20 (64 mins)

Transitions and Lockers

- Teachers will supervise the movement of students when they access their lockers and transition between classrooms.

- Students are expected to move efficiently from class to class or to common areas. Crowding in the hallways is to be avoided.
- Students will be asked to use backpacks and to carry materials for multiple classes at a time to limit/minimize locker visits.
- Lockers will be accessed so that maximum physical distancing can be maintained.

Spares

- Students with spares are free to use their time at their own discretion. They may attend study hall, the canteen, or leave the building.
- If students leave the building during lunch or spares, they are to exit and then re-enter the building at their designated door, defined in the Entry/Exit section above.
- Students who remain in or leave the building during lunch or spares are expected to uphold current public health orders and guidelines.

Access to Water

Water *bottle fill stations will be* accessible, but water fountains will not be.

Transportation

- Masks must be worn at all times while on the bus.
- All students and drivers should sanitize their hands before and after being on the bus.
- Students will be seated in the same seats every day for regular bus routes.

Visitors, Volunteers and Appointments

- Authorized visitors will be permitted by appointment. People who attempt to visit the school without an appointment will be turned away.
- Visits will be minimized to the greatest extent possible. Visitors will be required to sign in upon entry.
- All visitors must adhere to self-screening, physical distancing, and hygiene practices. Visitors with any symptoms consistent with COVID-19 must not enter the school.

- Volunteers will be subject to the same rules as staff regarding COVID-19 vaccinations and testing.

Attendance Expectations

- WMCI will be open for in-person learning to all students everyday, unless otherwise specified by the 2021-22 Pine Creek School Division calendar. Attendance, therefore, is compulsory, unless other arrangements have been made. There is no cohorting required at this time, so all registered students will be in their classes together.
- The full curriculum will be taught in every class.
- School-level remote learning will be in place for students who are medically advised not to return to in-class learning due to COVID-19 related risk factors. These situations should be rare and limited to children with compromised immune systems or other medical conditions that increase their risk. Parents and caregivers must consult with physicians about any need for an accommodation.
- If parents wish to keep their children at home due to personal preference, they can access [Teacher Mediated Option](#) (TMO) courses, or [Independent Study Option](#) (ISO) courses.
- Parents also have the option to have their children engage in [homeschooling](#).
- Considering alternate attendance options for students, depending on their needs, Manitoba Education continues to work with the Department of Families and education stakeholders to further develop guidance and support for students with special needs and students at risk. For more information, please visit the website <https://www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/covid/support/rsssn.html>.

Keeping Up with Assignments and Tests

- High school credits are granted on the basis of work completion and achievement. This means that students must complete assignments and tests of various forms given by their teachers. After assessing a set of defined assignments and tests, teachers determine if students have learned sufficient course content to be awarded course credits.
- Students who do not attend classes regularly run the risk of falling behind in completing assignments, or they may miss tests. If in a course a student has missed a significant number of

classes and/or the student has fallen significantly behind in completing required work, the student may be withdrawn from a course. Decisions to withdraw a student from a class will be made by the principal in collaboration with a class teacher, on a case-by-case basis.

Remote Learning

- Students will be asked to stay home if they display any symptoms of COVID-19. Therefore, the need for remote learning remains for students who cannot attend in-class.
- Staff will be prepared to offer a remote learning experience to those students so that students can complete the required work to attain course credits.
- Print materials will be made available for those students whose families do not have internet access.
- Other options exist for remote learning, as stated above in the Attendance Expectations section.

Physical Education (Phys Ed) and School Sports

- All Phys Ed classes and sport activities must follow current public health orders and guidelines.
- Students may remove their masks when involved in Phys Ed activities, during intramural or school team sports, so long as the safety of those participating is not compromised. If not engaged in activity (such as watching or sitting on a bench), masks must be worn.
- Spectators will not be permitted at this time, but efforts will be made to livestream school team sports.
- Provincial guidelines regarding physical education and school sports can be found at the [Province of Manitoba Sports Guidelines](#). The [Manitoba High School Athletics Association](#) also publishes COVID-19 related guidelines for sporting activities.

Managing a Suspected Case of COVID-19

- ❖ **PLEASE NOTE:** If a student is experiencing COVID-19 symptoms while at school, the student will be required to isolate in the school sick room or other designated space. Parents will be notified to pick up their child. Families are asked to develop a plan in case a child is symptomatic at school and needs to go home.

- ❖ Parents should then contact Health Links – Info Santé (204-788-8200 or 1-888-315- 9257) or their health care provider for direction.