



August 18, 2021

Dear Seine River School Division Families:

### **Re: School Re-Opening Plans**

Seine River School Division is excited that Public Health and Manitoba Education has deemed that our schools can re-open to full capacity starting September 7, 2021. We know there are lots of questions, concerns, excitement and trepidation about transitioning to an environment with fewer restrictions and want to reassure parents/caregivers that we are working diligently on our re-opening plans.

As we have experienced many changing conditions prior to the start of the last school year we have decided to release our plan after consultation with Manitoba Health, Manitoba Education and Division staff. We want to ensure that we do not create unnecessary worry with a plan that potentially could change a few times before September 7. I would like to share some highlights of our plans to inform each of you of some of the foundational pieces before we release them prior to the start of the school year:

- Bussing will return to normal operations with assigned seating, bus cohorts and continued enhanced cleaning.
- K-4 Bussing services will be restored in September.
- K-6 students will be cohorted and will remain in their cohorts until such time that Public Health deems it is not required.
- Staff and students will be required to stay home when ill or symptomatic and advised to contact Public Health for potential testing and advice.
- Staff and students will be required to complete the self-assessment survey daily before entering the school.
- All schools will continue to have assigned entrances and exits to minimize traffic flow in schools.

**With regards to Masks, Public Health is strongly recommending all staff and students wear masks indoors.** We are currently considering and **have not yet decided our expectations regarding mask usage** and understand that many things can change before the start of the school year. We will be releasing our Re-opening Plan later in August and we want to remind everyone that any plans can change suddenly and quickly given the pandemic's impact in the local context.

We are also planning for the next school year to ensure that we can accelerate learning for those students who need the extra supports. Mental Health and Well-being will be a priority for staff and students in 2021-2022 school year.

Thank you for your continued patience and support as we all work together to reduce the spread of



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Covid-19. We will continue to provide updates to families as we navigate a potential fourth wave of the pandemic. We know that it is important for individuals to be vaccinated and to follow the fundamentals of public health safety for our continued safe operation of schools.

Sincerely,

Michael Borgfjord  
Superintendent