



**Elkhorn, MB**

**Elkhorn School**

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To: Kindergarten to Grade 12 Parents & Students

Re: 2020-21 School Reopening Plan

As we progress through the COVID-19 pandemic and the upcoming school year Elkhorn School will continue to follow Manitoba Education, Public Health, and Fort La Bosse School Division directives. The latest division information regarding reopening schools can be found at [http://www.flbsd.mb.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/FLBSD\\_k-12-reopening\\_plan\\_August20\\_2020-1.pdf](http://www.flbsd.mb.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/FLBSD_k-12-reopening_plan_August20_2020-1.pdf) and the latest provincial release regarding reopening schools can be found at [https://manitoba.ca/asset\\_library/en/covid/k-12-reopeningplan-guidance.pdf](https://manitoba.ca/asset_library/en/covid/k-12-reopeningplan-guidance.pdf). As we head back to school we are at Response Level 1. For our division this means in class learning will resume for all and that we are at near normal conditions with public health measures. Students are expected to attend in class learning in Response Level 1.

Elkhorn School will adhere to the guidelines set out in the above information and will also have some school specific considerations that will be detailed in this letter. These considerations will also be added to a document that will be in the same format as the provincial and division links above. This will also be accessible from the school webpage. We will also be sending out parent and student information for the return to school. All of these documents and considerations are fluid and subject to change as we continue to progress through this pandemic.

The considerations that we will follow for Elkhorn School are as follows:

- All students and staff are expected to self-screen every day. Parents are asked to screen their children daily and students are to stay home if they are displaying any symptoms. <https://sharedhealthmb.ca/covid19/screening-tool/>
- Town students and bus students arrive at and enter the school starting at 8:38 am. Each K- 8 homeroom will enter and exit an assigned door and grade 9 – 12 students will enter and exit the front high school end doors. These entrances will be labeled and staff will be present to direct students to the appropriate door.
- If multiple buses arrive at the same time the first bus will completely unload before the next bus pulls up to unload.
- Parents of rural students are encouraged to drive their students to school if it is an option that is feasible for the family.
- Everyone will be expected to sanitize their hands when they enter the school. Students will be expected to go directly to their homeroom or their first class.
- Hand sanitizing stations will be placed directly in or just outside of classrooms.
- There will be designated hand washing times throughout the day in accordance with the recommendations set out by the province and division.
- There will be designated washrooms that K – 8 homerooms and grade 9 – 12 students will use.

- Grade 4 to Grade 12 students and staff will be required to wear masks when they enter the school and, in any classroom, that 2m physical distancing cannot be maintained. Kindergarten to Grade 3 students are strongly encouraged to wear a mask. Reusable masks should be washed on a daily basis.
- We will use plastic dividers on many of our classroom tables to provide a physical barrier between students and their work areas.
- Students and staff will not be required to wear masks when they are outdoors for recess or class.
- There will be physical distancing and hygiene reminders located throughout the school.
- There will be arrows on the hallway floors to indicate traffic flow. Hallway traffic will keep to the right.
- There will be dots on the floor to indicate where to stand in locations where there may be lineups.
- Water fountain spigots will be shut off and fountains will be used only as water bottle filling stations. Students are encouraged to bring a full water bottle from home with them each day.
- Any classroom items that cannot be easily wiped off will be stored.
- When using shared technology devices will be disinfected prior to use.
- There will be staggered recess dismissal and assigned areas on the playground for kindergarten to grade 6 students.
- Kindergarten to Grade 8 students will remain in their homeroom class as much as possible. Teachers will change rooms, rather than the students.
- School entrance doors will remain locked throughout the school day. All visitors will be required to sign in at the office. Visitors will be asked to remain in the office area as they are assisted.
- Classroom and washroom doors will remain open to limit contact points.
- There will be some reorganization of the Grade 7 – 12 lockers. Students are encouraged to carry their school supplies with them throughout the day as much as possible.
- All non-bus students are strongly encouraged to go home for lunch. Parental cooperation would be greatly appreciated.
- Microwaves will not be available. Students staying for lunch are asked to bring a lunch that does not require heating. The canteen, Tamara's Takeout, will be open for those that want to order lunch.
- Couches will be removed from the hallways.
- The grade 12 lounge will not be available for student use. It will be repurposed for the upcoming school year and until further notice.
- Intramural programs and field trips will be suspended until further notice.
- High school sports will follow guidelines set out by the Manitoba High School Athletics Association.
- Outside user groups will not be allowed to use school facilities until further notice.

The measures listed above have been put in place to help keep the students and staff safe at Elkhorn School. They undoubtedly are not ideal, but hopefully they will be manageable for everyone. Necessary measures will be in flux throughout the year and we will respond as recommendations from Public Health arise. We will work towards being prepared to change response levels and do our best to continue to support our students and families.

We ask that parents discuss the reasons for and help prepare their children for the safety protocols that have been put in place in order to help our students feel more comfortable and be more ready as we begin our school year. Cooperation, understanding, and kindness will be very important as we proceed through these challenging times. Thank you to our parents, students, and stakeholders for your ongoing support.

Thanks,

Elkhorn School Staff