

**Lowe Farm School Reopening Plan
September 2020**



September 2, 2020

September 30, 2020 Additions

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Introduction

The following is our school reopening plan based on the Government of Manitoba's announcement for September 2020 and the "Red River Valley School Division Plan for Reopening" document. Our staff have been busy working to make appropriate plans to allow the safe return of students in response to this next phase. The Chief Provincial Public Health Officer and School Division have provided direction and guidelines to have students return safely to school. We want to assure everyone that the Lowe Farm School is making plans based upon the recommendations from Manitoba Health and the School Division. Our school staff are planning for the return of students to the school with the priority remaining the safety and well-being of staff and students. We sincerely appreciate the patience, co-operation and support that families have provided as we navigate these changing conditions.

Return

As per the government plan, all students at Lowe Farm School will be returning to school full time starting Tuesday, September 8th.

Symptom and Exposure Screening

Staff are self-monitoring daily for signs and symptoms of COVID-19. Staff who have any symptoms of COVID-19 will stay home and follow the steps recommended by Manitoba Health.

Parents and caregivers must monitor their child daily for symptoms and exposures before sending them to school. Parents and caregivers are responsible for ensuring their children are not displaying symptoms before sending them to school or on the bus.

A student or staff member who meets any of the exclusion criteria will not be admitted to the school and will be advised to immediately isolate and consult Health Links-Info Santé or their health-care provider.

Should a staff member or student exhibit symptoms while at school, they will be provided with a mask immediately. The staff member will immediately leave the building, while a student will be quarantined until a parent or guardian can come and pick them up. The quarantined area will then be disinfected should it be needed for another student.

Those with symptoms should be tested. If the test is negative for COVID19, they can return 24 hours after symptoms resolve. If individuals do not get tested, they should isolate for 14 days from symptom onset, and they may return if symptoms have resolved at that time.

A chronic stable cough, sneeze, runny nose or nasal congestion that is unchanged and linked to a known medical condition such as asthma 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. Parents/caregivers and staff should exercise judgment based on the symptoms, but when in doubt, err on the side of caution and contact Health Links-Info Santé or their health-care provider.

Parents and staff will focus on monitoring for symptoms of COVID-19, as outlined in the Screening Tool and poster at <https://sharedhealthmb.ca/covid19/screening-tool>.

Visitor Access

All doors at the school will be locked during the school day. Visitor access will be limited and managed through the school office. Remote cameras and a doorbell is being set up to allow the office to communicate with people at the front door. Until the doorbell is installed, access can be gained by calling the school.

Parents, caregivers, healthcare providers, volunteers and other non-staff adults (e.g., visitors) entering the school will be prioritized to those supporting implementation of public health measures and activities that benefit student learning and well-being (e.g., immunizers, healthy snack program volunteers, etc.). This will also be limited to those who regularly volunteer to minimize the number of possible exposures.

Community use of schools is suspended at this time. This includes all gym rentals, piano lessons, Parent Council meetings, etc..

COVID-19 Orientation

All staff will be provided with the following orientation before the return of students to the classroom. As well, all visitors to the building will be screened and will need to watch the orientation prior to entry in the building.

[COVID Orientation Powerpoint](#)

Increased Cleaning and Disinfecting

Increased frequency of cleaning, disinfecting and sanitising - particularly on high-touch surfaces and in common/shared areas - is being implemented school-wide.

At the school:

- Commonly touched surfaces (e.g., doorknobs, light switches, electronic devices, chairs, desks, art supplies, toys, games, gym equipment, tools and equipment) will be disinfected frequently - at least twice daily, or more often as needed.
- Monitoring of hand-cleaning supplies will ensure an ample supply at all sinks in washrooms and kitchen areas.
- Washrooms will be cleaned and disinfected frequently (at least twice daily, and more often as needed) and will be used by one student at a time.
- Water fountains that are not touchless or cannot be cleaned between users are being turned off. Students and staff should bring reusable water bottles daily.

Ventilation

The School has increased the outside air ratio in our ventilation system. Our system has filters, which we ensure get changed frequently, and our system is of the correct size to ensure adequate ventilation and airflow. Whenever possible, windows will also be open.

Handwashing/Sanitizing

Handwashing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds is the recommended hand hygiene practice. Staff and students will engage in frequent hand washing or sanitizing, including at the following times:

- the start of the day and before going home
- before and after recess
- after going to the washroom and helping children with washroom routines
- after a diaper change (both children and staff)
- before and after preparing food (only staff & volunteers will prepare food)
- before eating or drinking
- after getting hands dirty
- after wiping a nose or handling dirty tissues
- after coughing, sneezing or blowing nose
- after soothing a crying child
- before and after putting on and taking off a mask
- before and after being on a bus
- after cleaning tasks

Explicit instruction will be provided by school staff to help young children to ensure handwashing is done correctly. Respiratory etiquette will be modelled, taught and reinforced regularly. This includes coughing and sneezing into a tissue or sleeve, as well as properly and promptly disposing of any used tissues, and exercising proper hand hygiene.

Hand sanitizer stations are set up and available at all building access points and throughout the facility.

Signage is posted, highly visible, and includes visual cues that remind staff and children to perform hand hygiene. (e.g., sneezing or coughing into their elbow, putting used tissues in a waste receptacle, and washing hands or using hand sanitizer immediately after using tissues).

Masks

At this time, non-medical masks are required in schools for students in Grades 4 to 8, as well as for staff and visitors, when physical distancing of two metres is not possible.

In situations where there are split classrooms, such as a Grades 3/4 split classroom, all students in the classroom should wear a mask when physical distancing of two metres is not possible. In Lowe Farm School, this will mean that some students with Grade 4's in their classroom should wear a mask indoors.

Masks are required on school buses for bus drivers, students, and any other passenger on the bus.

There may be times throughout the day that students will have the space to be physically distanced, or when masks can be removed, such as lunch breaks or mask-free play outdoors at recess. However, removed masks are considered contaminated and should be placed in a container or bag for appropriate cleaning and disinfection at a later time. Non-medical masks should be laundered daily.

Masks will be provided at the school if needed. However, non-medical masks will be added on the school supply list as well. With the many opportunities to remove their mask in a day, students are encouraged to bring 6 masks along with 2 baggies - one with clean masks and one for dirty masks to be laundered at home at the end of the day.

Non-medical masks should not be worn by anyone who:

- is unable to remove the mask without assistance (e.g., due to age, ability or developmental status)
- has breathing difficulties
- is under two years of age

Physical Distancing and Cohorts

Physical distancing within the cohort is required to the greatest extent possible, including a minimum of one-metre separation between students in the cohort when seated at desks or tables. As a result, most classrooms in Lowe Farm School can hold up to 19 students.

The maximum cohort size is to be no more than 75 students. Students in Lowe Farm School will be separated into 2 cohorts. One for Early Years students (Kindergarten-Grade 4) and one for Middle Years students (Grades 5-8). These 2 cohorts will be separated to prevent contact with each other. They will arrive through separate entrances, depart, and participate in school activities without co-mingling with members from other cohorts. Whenever possible, children and staff will be kept together with the same cohort throughout the day, including lunch breaks and recesses.

Furthermore, each cohort will be broken down into 3 classes for Early Years and 3 classes for Middle Years students. Classes will be assigned their own entrance and exit from the school building. Schedules have been adjusted to stagger the movement of classes to avoid being in shared spaces (e.g., foyers, hallways) at the same time. Wall and floor signage will help students and staff maintain a 2-metre distance in hallways.

Each classroom will be assigned a bathroom for their use and one student will use the bathroom at a time.

Classes will also be able to use a flexible space in the gym for up to a week at a time, and one of our 4 outdoor classrooms on the playground. All of these spaces will allow for at least 2m of physical distancing.

Daily records will be kept that include the names of students, staff and volunteers of cohorts and classes for the purpose of contact tracing.

As of September 30, 2020, the school is able to meet the 2-metre social distancing recommendation due to the size of classes, classrooms and gym space. We are adopting the 2-metre minimum distancing with cohorts of students recommendation. Students will remain in one classroom, and a 2-metre distance will be instituted in the classroom configuration.

The following classroom configuration is being implemented to ensure smaller class sizes to allow for the 2-metre social distancing minimum. Also, in the event that a family or class is required to self-isolate, siblings in the same cohort will be in the same homeroom classroom reducing the number of close contacts for each family. For families with students in multiple grades, those families will have a maximum of 2 teachers for their children.

Early Years Cohort

Early Years M - Will be taught by Ms. McLaren and will consist of Kindergarten to grade 3 students with 12 or less students per day. Kindergarten students will be divided into 2 groups, attending every other day. Kindergarten students will have their own desks and materials but share the space on opposite days with thorough cleaning between each group.

Exit and Entrance will be the Main Entrance of school.

Early Years L - Will be taught by Miss Lee and will consist of Grade 1-3 students with 14 or less students in the classroom.

Exit and Entrance will be at the South school door adjacent to the hardtop.

Early Years B - Will be taught by Miss Bergen and will consist of Grade 2-4 students with 14 or less students in the classroom.

Exit and Entrance will be at the South school door adjacent to the hardtop.

Middle Years Cohort

Middle Years P - Will be taught by Mr. Plett and will consist of Grade 5-7 students. As of Friday, October 2nd, they will be split between classroom #9 and the library next door.

Exit and Entrance will be the North-West Gym door.

Middle Years B - Will be taught by Mr. Burnett and will consist of Grade 5-8 students in the room previously used for Music. As of Friday, October 2nd, they will be split between classroom #11 and #12 next door.

Exit and Entrance will be through the North-East doors with the group lining up along the east classroom wall.

Middle Years JB - Will be taught by Mrs. Johnston in the mornings and Mr. Benson in the afternoon, and will consist of Grade 6-8 students. As of Wednesday, September 30th, they are now located in the school gym.

Exit and Entrance will be through the North-East doors with the group lining up along the gym wall.

Educational Programming

All homeroom teachers will teach English Language Arts, Math, Science, Social Studies, Health and one of the Arts to their class. Singing and Drama indoors are suspended in the school division. Each class will be supported by an educational assistant to support educational programs and supervision while outdoors.

Physical Education

Mr. Benson will be the Phys. Ed teacher for all classes. Physical Education/Health classes will run outside. Parents will need to ensure students have appropriate footwear, clothing and gear for the weather. (Runners, shorts or sweatpants, short sleeve or long sleeve shirt, rain jacket.) Two Early Years classes and also two Middle Years classes will be combined for Phys. Ed. At this time, students will not be asked to change their footwear when entering and exiting the school. Runners for Phys. Ed class should be worn to school. In addition, Middle Years students will not have the opportunity to change for gym classes, but are welcome to bring deodorant for personal hygiene. When it is impossible to be outside due to the weather, i.e. rain, Phys. Ed classes will be held in the classroom with students remaining in their personal space around their desks.

Library

The school library will be closed to students. However, teachers of students in Kindergarten to Grade 4 will sign out books for use in their classrooms and will send home books from their classrooms libraries for reading at home. Students in Grades 5-8 will be able to request books to be signed out to them from the school library and have a return bin in their classrooms.

Sports

The division has suspended inter-school sports. However, students in both Early Years and Middle Years cohorts will be given the option to join in Intramurals organized by teaching staff. Equipment used during intramural sports will be cleaned afterward for use the next day. Also, all students will be invited to join our “Lancers In Motion” club during noon hours. Students will earn points for engaging in physical activity that will earn them special Lancer gear!

Student Arrival and Departure Times

Bussed students’ arrival and dismissal times will be determined by the bussing schedule.

Non-bussed students are to arrive at school between 8:30 a.m. and 8:35 a.m. in time for the 8:45 a.m. start of the day and will be dismissed at 3:15 p.m.

Closed Campus

The school division has decided to implement a closed campus system division-wide. As a result, if students leave school for whatever reason before dismissal time they will not be allowed to return to the school that day.

Recess

Early Years (Kindergarten-Grade 4) and Middle Years (Grade 5-8) will have their own recess times scheduled. Furthermore, to reduce traffic in hallways and provide students with balanced outdoor and indoor schedules with large blocks of physical activity in open space, the 2 short recesses will be combined to create one 30 minute recess. Students should come prepared for outdoor recess regardless of the weather conditions. Any items brought by students to be used during recess can not be shared with others and must be able to fit inside their backpack along with their lunch and other school supplies.

Nutrition Break

A prepackaged nutritious snack will be available for students mid-morning. Students are also welcome to bring a snack from home to eat during nutrition break. If parents send home baking, they are encouraged to label the package as 'snack' so staff are aware of a parents intention to allow their child to eat the baking during the nutrition break rather than saving it for lunch time.

Lunch

Due to our closed campus, all students are asked to bring lunch to school. The lunch hour will be staggered over one and a half hours. Early Years students will eat first and then go outside for physical activity while the Middle Years students eat their lunch. Middle Years students will then go outside while Early Years students return to classes. This will allow for the Early Years to be outside at a separate time from the Middle Years.

Microwaves

Microwaves will not be available for student lunches or snacks.

Hallway Lockers

Hallway locker use is suspended division-wide. Supplies will need to be carried with students and stored at their desk and chair.