



Health and Seniors Care
Population and Public Health
300 Carlton Street, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada R3B 3M9
T 204-788-6701
www.manitoba.ca

April 20, 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Re: School Community Notification Letter—Southwood School

Manitoba public health officials have advised of at least one confirmed case of COVID-19 in the school on April 12th & 13th in Grade 1 and/or Bus 40 when the individual(s) may have been infectious. The school is working closely with public health officials and is following their recommendations. Close contacts have been identified and are advised to self-isolate along with their household members.

If you have not been contacted by the school stating your child is a potential close contact and a public health official has not contacted you, your child has **not** been identified as being exposed to COVID-19 from this/these case(s). If your child has not been identified as a close contact, public health officials still recommend that you closely monitor your child for symptoms of COVID-19.

If your child develops a new onset or worsening of any one symptom listed in Column A or any two or more symptoms listed in Column B (see table below), even if they are mild, immediately isolate them from others.

It is recommended your child get tested for COVID-19 as soon as symptoms appear. You may go directly to the nearest COVID-19 testing location during their open hours. For the testing site nearest you, please visit <https://manitoba.ca/covid19/testing/index.html>, or call Health Links-Info Santé at 204-788-8200 or toll-free at 1-888-315-9257.

Public health officials are also advising that for anyone who is symptomatic, or who has a household member who is symptomatic, **the entire household should self-isolate** pending COVID-19 test results.

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A	B
Fever/Chills	Runny nose
Cough	Muscle aches
Sore throat/hoarse voice	Fatigue
Shortness of breath/difficulty breathing	Pink eye (conjunctivitis)
Loss of taste or smell	Headache
Vomiting or diarrhea for more than 24 hours	Skin rash of unknown cause
	Nausea or loss of appetite
	Poor feeding (if an infant)

Individuals with symptoms outlined in Columns A and B, who choose not to be tested, must isolate for a minimum of 10 days following the start of symptoms. Isolation can be stopped at day 10 if the individual has been symptom-free for 24 hours. In the case of symptomatic individuals who choose not to be tested, all household members should isolate along with the symptomatic person for the 10 days.

Please note the following:

- Public health officials strongly encourage testing so it can be determined whether COVID-19 transmission has occurred within the school.
- The school is not permitted to release the name or any identifying information about the confirmed case(s) of COVID-19 to any member of the school, community, or media.
- As variants of concern (VOC) are becoming the dominant strain of the virus in Manitoba, to reduce the risk of transmission, changes have been made to how we manage all COVID-19 cases and contacts. While public reporting of VOCs associated with schools will continue, there will no longer be separate notification or different recommendations if the case is a VOC. For more information about VOCs, please visit www.gov.mb.ca/covid19/fundamentals/variants.html.

For more public health information about COVID-19, please visit <https://manitoba.ca/covid19/updates/resources.html>.

Sincerely,

Office of the Chief Provincial Public Health Officer
Health and Seniors Care