



St. Mary's Academy

Preparedness for Changes in Provincial Covid-19 Response Levels

September 29, 2020

K-12 schools in Manitoba began the school year at a provincial response level of "Yellow" (caution).



The response level "Yellow" was set based on public health guidelines and indicated that community transmission levels of Covid-19 were low.

The province moved to a regional overview of data and statistics related to Covid-19. Response levels may vary across the province, regions, communities, education institutions, businesses etc. based on changes in regional health data. We have witnessed these individualized changes in real time since the school year began due to confirmed case numbers in specific regions, communities and/or school cohorts.

The Department of Education and Training continues to be in constant communication with provincial health offices and educational recommendations respond to up-to-date public health orders. Guidelines and protocols will be adjusted as needed. St. Mary's Academy is aware that flexibility and preparedness of multiple plans are required.

At St. Mary's Academy, we have responded in four distinct areas: operational and health protocols, learning plans to meet the unique needs of our students, orienting staff to protocols and response plans and maintaining communication with families.

In the event the Education sector is elevated to a provincial response level of "Orange" (restricted)



Public health orders may change in the education sector. A response level of "Orange" would indicate that community transmission of Covid-19 is occurring; however, the virus is being transmitted at levels that public health and the health system can manage. St. Mary's Academy is aware that a change in learning plans may need to be implemented quickly. Synchronous (working with a teacher in real time) and asynchronous (working independently) learning will both be considered. Maintaining ongoing contact with students will remain critical to student engagement.

What will this look like at St. Mary's Academy?

St. Mary's Academy will adhere to physical distancing requirements to at least 2 metres. Self-screening, face masks and hand hygiene will remain mandatory. Faculty will be present in the building delivering course content either in person or remotely (grade dependent). High levels of sanitization will continue throughout our facility.



Grades 7 & 8

- Students will remain in school full-time, as per current Department of Education guidelines.
- Separate homeroom cohorts will continue with the use of alternate spaces to facilitate increased distancing (eg: Multi-Purpose Room, Old Auditorium, Senior Physics lab, one homeroom utilizing two classrooms across the hall from each other, grades 7 and 8 on different floors of the building).
- Students will use the cafeteria and atrium for eating lunch. They will continue to be separated by homeroom cohorts and be seated at least 2 metres distance from one another.
- Every effort will be made to continue to provide applied arts and physical education programs.

Grades 9 – 12

- Students will shift to remote learning from home.
 - **Monday to Thursday:** Students will follow their regular timetable; teachers will connect virtually for real time learning via Teams (synchronous learning).
 - **Friday:** Teachers will be available for consultation with students (virtually or in person on campus). Students will be working independently on homework, assignments and projects as directed by their teacher (asynchronous learning). Friday will be considered a day on the school day cycle.
- In the event that Public Health declares one of our high school cohorts “orange” (restricted), St. Mary’s Academy will respond with significant caution and, for the common good of our community, will shift all high school students immediately to a determined period of remote learning from home. We will guide our decisions based on public health recommendations.

In the event the Education sector is elevated to a provincial response level of “Red” (critical).



A response level of “Red” would indicate that community transmission of Covid-19 is not contained and/or there are significant strains on our health system. In this event, all students will move to virtual classrooms and engage in remote learning from home. There will be limited use of our facilities however, our Faculty will remain present via technology as they lead their students through remote learning.

What will this look like at St. Mary’s Academy?

- In-class learning will be suspended for all grades with a rapid shift to remote learning.
- Synchronous and asynchronous remote learning will be implemented with a key focus on core subject areas; other curricular areas will be provided and/or integrated as time and resources permit.
 - **Monday to Thursday:** Students will follow their regular timetable; teachers will connect virtually for real time learning via Teams (synchronous learning).
 - **Friday:** Teachers will be available for consultation with students (virtually or on campus if guidelines allow). Students will be working independently on homework/assignments/projects as directed by their teacher (asynchronous learning).
- Students will be required to meet all curricular outcomes and participate daily in their learning.



- Assessment and evaluation will continue with grades reflecting the student's engagement and achievement during remote learning.
- Our school facility may be used for specific programming based on student need. We will ensure more than two metres distancing is practiced. We may consider small groups by invitation only, if guidelines allow.
- Faculty will remain in contact with our students to continue their engagement in their learning and ensure that they have access to resources required for remote learning. In the event of a lack of resources, families will be asked to contact SMA's President directly.
- Student appointments and small group assessments will be scheduled as needed if guidelines permit. All Covid-19 safety protocols will be in place.

The Department of Education and Training has a reference guide, *Manitoba Education Standards and Expectations for Students Learning at Home (Remote Learning)*, which will guide our timelines and expectations.

When the Education sector is de-escalated to a provincial response level of "Green" (limited risk).



A response level of "Green" would indicate that the spread of Covid-19 is broadly contained and a vaccine and/or effective treatment is available. Decisions at St. Mary's Academy will be guided by directives from Manitoba Education and Training, factoring in all guidance from public health officials.

Generally, what will this look like at St. Mary's Academy?

- We will be able to resume In-class learning for all students as there will be minimal public health protocols required at this level.
- For students who have compromised immune systems, we will consider an individualized remote learning plan.