



GH - MANDATORY COVID-19 TESTING OF STAFF & VISITORS

The Portage la Prairie School Division herein after referred to as “Division” is committed to upholding its statutory obligations to provide a safe environment to all pupils who attend our schools, all employees who work in our facilities, and all members of our community who volunteer or visit our schools (Public Schools Act 41(1); Workplace Safety and Health Act 4(1) & 4(2)).

On August 24, 2021, Manitoba Public Health announced its intention to introduce new Public Health Orders that would compel all employers providing services to vulnerable populations (including children) to observe the implementation of mandatory collection of proof of full vaccination or mandatory testing of all employees having direct contact with children. These Orders were published on September 24, 2021.

On September 2, 2021, Manitoba Education published additional directives pertaining to “immunization and testing requirements” that serve to operationalize the mandatory collection of proof of full vaccination or mandatory testing of all employees and school site visitors having direct contact with children.

This policy is one component of the [Portage la Prairie School Division’s Pandemic Response Plan](#) that aims to:

- ensure a successful return to in-school learning, uninterrupted by COVID-19 outbreaks;
- reduce transmission of COVID-19 in the Division’s schools and facilities; and
- mitigate the risk of severe COVID-19 outcomes among individuals in our schools, particularly those individuals who are unable to be vaccinated due to legitimate medical, personal or religious reasons or for whom vaccines are not currently approved, notably children born after December 2009.

In accordance with the September 2, 2021, directives published by Manitoba Education on “immunization and testing requirements” (https://manitoba.ca/asset_library/en/proactive/20212022/orders-soe-08272021.pdf) educational workers including teachers, educational support staff, school administration staff, custodial staff, bus drivers, child care staff working in school-based early learning and child care facilities, clinical and health care related occupations in schools; and post-secondary practicum students, are required to provide proof of full vaccination or submit to testing “up to three times per week.”

To comply with these requirements the Division has developed these policies, subject to the **GUIDELINES** and **PROCEDURES** outlined in policy regulation GH-R, providing that all employees who have direct contact with pupils in the Division must undergo testing up to three times per week or provide proof of full vaccination. Additionally, the Division mandates that all school trustees/board members and

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Revised:		



visitors who have direct contact with vulnerable populations (including children) are, at the discretion of the Division, required to submit proof of full vaccination prior to entry to school properties where children may be present and/or, at the discretion of the Division. For clarity, the Division may, at its discretion, require those school trustees/board members and visitors who attend a divisional facility on an irregular basis, to have conducted and received a negative test within 48 hours prior to their attendance at such a facility.

For the purposes of this policy, “fully vaccinated” shall mean individuals who have received both doses (any combination) of a Canadian approved two dose COVID-19 vaccine, or a single dose of a Canadian approved single dose COVID-19 vaccine with more than 14 days having passed since the final vaccination was received, which definition shall be subject to ongoing amendment and compliance with the Manitoba Public Health definition of “full vaccination” which may exceed the current dosage definition.

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