

## COVID 19 – UPDATE #12 (May 21<sup>st</sup>)

In light of the Manitoba Government's "Restoring Safe Services Phase 2 Draft Plan," announcement today, regarding an early start to the school year, MTS President, James Bedford has been working on your behalf to provide further information to educators. Below is an email sent out to all local presidents earlier today...

*"Dear Presidents, Members of the Provincial Executive, COSL Chairperson, and EFM President:*

*Earlier today, Acting Deputy Member Dana Rudy updated us on the government's plan for schools. As part of the Phase 2, schools will be re-opened this spring (June 1<sup>st</sup>) and all teachers and staff are expected to be at school for the remaining days of the school year. Case by case exceptions and accommodations are possible given identified individual concerns.*

*To be clear, this is not a resumption of classes. The government has officially announced that in-school classes will not resume for this school year.*

*Schools are being re-opened to give teachers and students a place to meet for the purpose of assessment. From what we were told, student assessments can be done in person or remotely. Parents have the option of deciding where the assessments are conducted.*

*Remote learning will wind down in June so that teachers can shift to final student assessment and report card writing and to plan ahead with colleagues for recovery learning and re-entry.*

*MTS is working with MB Education as part of the Response Planning Team on a survey that will go out to members, seeking input on how to effectively transition back to in-class learning. This survey will be coming out shortly.*

*The government is also looking at "one time only" early start by starting school on August 31. That decision will still require some additional thought and feedback from all stakeholders. There was, again, the proposal to restructuring PD days into instructional days. This is not surprising. In fact, the Minister floated the idea of restructuring PD days into instructional days in an article in The Manitoba Teacher. What I said at that time was that we are happy to sit down with the Minister and other stakeholders to discuss the ways in which we can best support students. It looks like we will be given the opportunity to consult on these proposals, along with other stakeholders.*

*We will update you as soon as more information is available.*

*The Phase 2 draft plan can be viewed at <https://www.gov.mb.ca/covid19/restoring/phase-two.html>*

*Very best regards,"*

James Bedford (he/him)  
President  
The Manitoba Teachers' Society

We will keep you updated as we are updated as we are all in this together!

Cale Dunbar  
President  
Brandon Teachers' Association.