
Re-Opening Plan 2020

JANUARY 31

Alhijra Islamic School



Introduction

In the planning for the re-opening of AIS in the fall 2020-2021, the health, safety and well-being of students and staff remains at the top of our priorities. The education department has decided for schools to re-open for teachers and staff on September 2, 2020 and students to return on September 8, 2020. Kindergarten to Grade 9 students will return for five days of in-class instruction. Our school planning will include all three scenarios and we will be prepared to follow any scenario based on the public health situation at the time. To ensure there will be no interruption to the students learning with the evolving pandemic, blended learning will be incorporated into all the scenarios. All scenarios will support continued learning and wellbeing during the pandemic.

Institutional Preparedness

- The school will continue to reinforce the cleaning protocols that were implemented in June 2020.
- Classrooms will be configured to support physical distance with the use of multipurpose rooms such as the gym.
- Two meters of physical distancing is required to the greatest extent possible. There will be at least one meter of physical distancing between the students as they sit in their desks.
- Students will remain within cohorts (groups of students) to reduce exposure to others and cohorts will distance themselves from other group to limit exposure. The maximum cohort size is not more than 75 students and each cohort will arrive, depart, and participate in school activities without interaction as much as possible with members from other cohorts.
- Signage will be installed to promote physical distancing and there will be marks on the floors where any lines are to form both inside and outside the school.
- The school will have to be deep cleaned daily and sanitation will occur repeatedly throughout day and between shifts.
- Cleaning and disinfecting objects and surfaces that are often touched: desks, doorknobs, light switches, keyboards, gym equipment, games, art supplies, and electronic devices. These high touch surfaces will be cleaned at least twice daily.
- Posting information and signs in the hallways, classrooms and around the school about social distancing, cleaning, and other health measures.
- Encourage frequent handwashing using soap and the use of alcohol-based hand sanitizer when hand washing is unavailable.
- Increased monitoring of hand cleaning supplies to ensure an ample supply at all sinks.
- School schedule will be adapted to facilitate frequent hand-washing breaks, staggered recesses and lunch breaks, and physical distancing measures placed in classrooms and bathrooms.
- Posting signs in the bathrooms on how to wash hands properly (20 seconds).
- Limit the number of students using the washrooms to 2 students at a time.
- Water fountains will remain closed. Students are encouraged to bring their own reusable water bottles.
- Minimize or limit parents and visitor access to the school.
- Entry and exit points will be managed to avoid congestion.
- Ensure sanitation in the classrooms.
- Use individual desks for seating or barriers between students if using the big tables (scenarios 2,3).

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- For grades 7-9, additional adaptations will be implemented to minimize student circulation and mixing of students from different classes. The teachers will circulate between the classes to teach their respective subjects instead of the students.
 - Kg-Grade 4 will pray in cohorts in the gym if it is not in use for classes. Grades 5-8 will pray in cohorts in the second-floor hallway.

Safety and Health Protocols

- Have a private and comfortable space where students who become ill can isolate until they are picked up by a parent from school.
- If a student or staff member tests positive for Covid19 the principal will contact public health officials for advice and recommendations to be implemented.
- Students grade 5 and up, teachers, staff and visitors are strongly recommended to wear non-medical masks in areas where physical distancing of 2 meters is not possible. Students under Grade 5 can also use non-medical masks.
- The school will regularly and accurately record student attendance and keep track of all visitors and employees that access the building to facilitate contact tracing.
- Students and staff are asked to stay home if they show any cold or flu like symptoms.
- Staff members will be allowed to leave immediately if showing cold-like symptoms
- The school will not schedule assemblies and gatherings that exceed public health advice.
- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) will be available for students who become ill at school and for the staff monitoring them.
- No sharing of food or school supplies.
- As always, the students will have lunch and snacks at their desks.
- The parents will be allowed to visit school for all inquiries after student's dismissal or by appointment with teachers.
- There will be screening protocols for all people entering the school and limitations regarding visitors. All visitors and volunteers must adhere to self-screening, physical distancing, and recommended hygiene practices.

Students and Families Preparedness

- Letters and emails will be sent out to parents regarding safety protocols/guidelines.
- Parents are expected to screen their children every morning before they are sent to school. The Manitoba Screening tool should be used as guide:
<https://sharedhealthmb.ca/covid19/screening-tool/>.
- Parents and caregivers are responsible for ensuring their children are not displaying symptoms before sending them to school.
- Students should self-isolate and not enter the school if they:
 - are experiencing symptoms suggestive of COVID-19
 - have travelled outside Manitoba in the previous 14 days (outside of areas excluded by public health orders, which currently exclude locations in Western Canada, the territories, and Ontario west of Terrace Bay)
 - are a close contact of a confirmed case of COVID-19
 - are awaiting a COVID-19 test result (excluding persons tested as part of voluntary asymptomatic surveillance for COVID-19, as they do not need to isolate) An up-to-date list of symptoms can be found at <https://www.gov.mb.ca/covid19/about/index.html>.
- We will deliver information to students and families through email, telephone, and messages sent through platforms used in remote learning. Teachers will also use their classroom websites.
- Communication with parents/guardians to be aware of any circumstances and highlight the needs of the students. A communication plan will be established to inform parents on student-specific planning whether at school or at home.
- Communicate with parents/guardians the expectations for in-class attendance and participation in remote learning. Students are expected to attend in-class learning; if remote learning is included as part of their learning plan, they will be expected to participate in that as well.
- For students who are unable to attend school due to with health conditions, we will be using on-line platforms (Seesaw, Google Classrooms, Edmodo, Zoom) but also allow for take-home packages.
- The classroom teachers and physical education teacher will focus on mental health strategies such as ways to ease anxiety, reinforce the availability of communication with the teachers, and have access to the Kids Help Phone number.

Learning Preparedness

- Teachers will use the Manitoba Recovery Learning Document to facilitate the transition from home learning to in-class learning
- We will be giving out tests for Math and ELA to determine what levels the students are at and identify weaknesses and strengths.
- Students will be assessed using running records (PM Benchmarks) and Words Their Way spelling assessment. They will be assessed on the 2019/2020 math curriculum outcomes.
- Students needing recovery learning will work one on one or in small groups with an EA. They will receive an extra take home package if necessary.
- There will be a large focus on the social-emotional well being of the students and staff.
- Previous teachers will communicate with receiving teachers to discuss student and class needs. A detailed list of students that will need extra support, the type of support and if time will be needed for the child to review the previous year's curriculum in September will be sent to the following year's teacher.
- The first weeks of school will focus on conducting assessments and identifying and addressing any gaps in learning. Teachers will re-teach any concepts in Literacy and Numeracy that students are struggling with before moving onto new content.
- Grade 1: key focus will be on Literacy, Numeracy, and other curricular areas as time and resources permit.
- Grades 2-9: key focus will be on English Language Arts, Math, science and other curricular areas as time and resources permit.
- The school will ensure that all students have access to a laptop at home for remote learning.

Staff Preparedness

- Staff must be educated about the health orders given by the government including the use of the online [COVID-19 screening tool](#) to ensure that they are following the proper protocols.
- Staff must spend time with their students educating them about these orders to ensure that everyone is on the same page and completely understands these protocols and follows them properly.
- Teachers will have access to hand sanitizer and facemasks. There will be a limit to the number of teachers that can access common areas such as the staffroom.
- Information on self monitoring and how to manage a suspected case of Covid-19 will be provided to all staff.
- Arrangements such as working from home will be made for any staff who have underlying health problems that make them more vulnerable to Covid-19.
- Planning for any necessary health and safety training for all staff.
- There will be professional learning focus on Covid-19 priority areas such as recovery learning, mental health and well being, and strategies for remote learning.

LIMITED RISK (Green)

The spread of COVID-19 is broadly contained and a vaccine and/or effective treatment for COVID-19 is available.

Level 1:

- In-class learning resumes for all; near normal with public health measures. All students and staff are expected to attend school daily unless they are showing symptoms of Covid19 or they become ill. Students will be attending their assigned classroom and participate in regular school routine.
- Changes to this scenario:
- Morning routine will consist of daily screening tool for all grades. We will utilize MB Shared health screening tool.
- Teachers will deliver remote learning to high-risk student who cannot attend in-class

CAUTION (Yellow)

Community transmission of COVID-19 is at low levels.

Level 2:

Social distancing implemented on June 1st, 2020 will be reinforced.

- Students will attend the school daily to ensure they are engaged socially and academically.
- Students and teachers would be encouraged to remain in their classroom and to move as a cohort to entrances, exits, or other spaces within the school.
- Based on current public health advice and out of an abundance of caution, masks are required for Grade 4 to 12 students as well as teachers, school staff and visitors.
- Students should remain in small cohorts and continue contact with that cohort for the day to minimize interaction between students outside their classroom. This will limit potential exposure and this practice can help with contact tracing if there is a case of infection.
- Limit the number of students during recess but increase the number of adult supervisions to ensure social distancing.
- Entrance into the school will be staggered. Children will wash hands/sanitize prior to entering the classroom. Children will sit 1-2 metres apart at a desk. There will be no group work and children's supplies will stay with that student for their session.
- Recess will be staggered with Kindergarten, 1 and 2 together, and grades 3 and 4 together.
- For students with health condition and students in 14-days quarantine isolation, we will be using on-line platforms (Seesaw, Google Classrooms, Edmodo, Zoom) but also allow for take-home packages for those without access to technology.

RESTRICTED ORANGE

Community transmission of COVID-19 is occurring; however, the virus is being transmitted at levels that public health and the health system can manage.

Level 3:

- On Thursday, October 22, 2020, Manitoba's Provincial Public Health Officer, Dr. Brent Roussin, announced that schools in the Winnipeg Metro Region, including School Divisions and independent schools, will transition into the orange zone. Schools will move to a temporary, modified Orange Pandemic Response level due to community transmission levels in the city and surrounding the city of Winnipeg.

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- Al Hijra Islamic school has now been moved to the Restricted (orange) level of the pandemic response system (PRS). The school is working closely with Public Health to ensure all safety measures are followed.
 - To ensure continuity of learning during the Restricted level (orange), the school is offering temporary remote learning for all students K-9. The school will be providing temporary remote learning to parents who request it and are able to commit to consistent and daily support of their child during the time of restricted level orange. In-class learning will continue to be provided at school. Whether you choose to have your child (ren) continue to attend in person, or elect the temporary learning from home option, we will continue to work with you to build on your child (ren)'s strengths to create positive learning experiences.
 - This temporary remote learning option is available beginning Monday, Nov.2, 2020 until we are moved out of the restricted level (orange). This learning approach relies on the parent/caregiver to monitor engagement and completion of required independent work.

CRITICAL RED

Community spread of COVID-19 is not contained and/or there are significant strains on our health care system.

Level 4:

- The following guidelines will be implemented only in the event of Manitoba Public Health and Manitoba Education direction to move a school or schools into a Critical Red Level.
- All existing protocols remain in place with the addition of:
- School will be closed to the public with the exception of Kindergarten to Grade 6 students of critical workers. Per Manitoba Education, priority access will be given to health care providers, and other critical services workers will be eligible and prioritized as follows:

Tier One

- Health Services

- Kindergarten to Grade 12 Education Providers (Teachers, Administrators, Support Staff)

-Child Care Workers

- Law Enforcement

- Corrections Workers

-Fire and Paramedic First Responders

- Direct Social Services and Child Protection Workers

Tier Two

Additional Critical Service Providers (This may include people who provide essential services to Manitobans such as front-line natural resource workers, gas station attendants, grocery store staff, and hospital/clinic support staff, such as those listed in The Essential Services Act.

- School will continue to offer remote learning for all students with the exception of KG to Grade 6 children of Critical Services Workers. Students will participate in real-time online instruction that is coordinated and scheduled by their in-class teachers.
- Teachers and support staff continue to work from the school, providing remote learning to all students.

Two meters of physical distancing is required with reduced class sizes.

- Key focus on literacy, numeracy and other curricular areas as time and resources permit.
- Teachers will be in contact with all students to keep them engaged in remote learning.
- Ensure continued connectivity for students.