

# COVID-19

## Manitoba Summary of Education Updates

July 31, 2020

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# MANITOBA | Summary of the Government's Response to COVID-19

School System	Status, Date of Closure, & Expected Date of Re-Opening	Current Graduating Classes	Access to Online Learning	Provincially Mandated Assessments & Report Cards	Financial Aid for Schools and Parents	Tuition, Scholarships & Entry Fees
<b>Childcare – Department of Families</b>						
Licensed child care centres & licensed child care homes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Suspension of services at licensed child-care centres is effective as of end-of-day March 20, 2020, except for critical service workers who are given priority access to child care services (<i>current as of March 24</i>).</li> <li>Critical service providers who are prioritized include: Health Care Providers, Emergency Service Providers, Corrections Workers, Law Enforcement Workers, Fire and Paramedic, Direct Social Services and Child Protection Workers (<i>current as of March 24</i>).</li> <li>To ensure Manitoba's critical workers have access to child care, all licensed child care facilities have been requested to confirm their status with Early Learning and Child Care by completing the <a href="#">Manitoba Child Care Facility Status Online Form</a> (<i>current as of March 27</i>).</li> <li>The Minister encouraged those licensed child-care facilities who want to help by re-opening or continuing to have spaces available to submit an updated</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Not applicable.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Not applicable.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Not applicable.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Full operating grants and subsidies will continue to be provided to all licensed child-care facilities (<i>current as of March 27</i>).</li> <li>The full provincial operating grant, over \$30 million, continues to flow to all licensed child-care facilities (<i>current as of April 9</i>).</li> <li>On March 20, the Government of Manitoba announced funding support for child-care services of critical service providers including \$18 million for the creation of new independent child-care spaces, \$7.6 million for the continuation of child-care operating grants and \$2 million for a capital grants trust (<i>current as of April 9</i>).</li> <li>On April 17, 2020, the Government of Manitoba announced an addition of \$300,000,000 to the Manitoba Protection Plan, for which one of the purposes is to support training and grants to child-care experts to become entrepreneurs by opening their own small-scale daycares (<i>current as of April 27</i>).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No update as of May 21, 2020.</li> </ul>

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	<p>facility status form through Manitoba Child Care Online <a href="#">here</a> (current as of April 9).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Visit <a href="http://eswchildcare.ca">eswchildcare.ca</a> to check for child care centres and homes that have open spaces (current as of June 18).</li> <li>As of June 1, 2020, licensed child care centres, including facilities in schools, can continue to provide care for up to 24 children. Larger centres with separate rooms and external entrances can accommodate up to 24 children per room. (Current as of July 8)</li> </ul>				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Early childhood educators can apply for a \$3,000 grant by completing the Temporary Child Care Service Grant Form <a href="#">here</a>. Eligibility requirements are found <a href="#">here</a> (current as of July 31).</li> <li>The Government of Canada has also confirmed that child-care centres are eligible for the federal emergency wage subsidy, which provides up to 75% of employee wages for businesses and non-profits (current as of April 17).</li> <li>On April 22, 2020, the Government of Manitoba announced a \$120,000,000 loan program called The Manitoba Gap Protection Program. Eligible "businesses" will receive a \$6,000 non-interest bearing forgivable loan. The business must attest that it has not received "any major non-repayable COVID-19 federal supports such as the Canada Emergency Business Account and Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy, as well as, sector-specific grant federal programs specifically developed in response to the pandemic", see <a href="#">here</a> (current as of April 28).</li> </ul>	
Unlicensed private home child care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Government of Manitoba issued a new order on March 30, 2020 for the physical closure of all businesses, except critical services. "Child care services for essential workers, and home child care services provided for eight or fewer children" is no. 74 in the schedule of critical services. Pursuant to the order, the operator of the business must implement measures to ensure that persons attending the place of business are reasonably able to maintain a separation of at least two metres from other</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Not applicable.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Not applicable.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Not applicable.</li> </ul>		

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	<p>persons who are attending the business (<i>current as of March 31</i>).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As of June 1, 2020, home-based child care providers can also continue to operate with the number of children for which they are licensed (<i>current as of June 18</i>).</li> </ul>					
<b>Kindergarten to High School – Manitoba Education</b>						
Private (including funded independent schools and non-funded independent schools)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Classroom learning will resume on Sept. 8 for all students in kindergarten through Grade 12 (<i>Current as of July 30</i>). Manitoba school divisions and schools will follow the <i>Welcoming Our Students Back: Restoring Safe Schools</i> provincial guidelines to finalize and post division plans by mid-August.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Determined on a school-by-school basis (<i>current as of May 21</i>).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Determined on a school-by-school basis (<i>current as of May 21</i>).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Determined on a school-by-school basis (<i>current as of May 21</i>).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Generally, the Government of Manitoba (i) released a supplement to the Budget 2020, including fiscal flexibility to respond to COVID-19, on March 19, which included nearly \$1 billion in financial flexibility including an increase of the rainy day fund to \$800 million, and (ii) established a call centre to help businesses, not-for-profits and charities facing economic challenges due to COVID-19 connect with support programs (<i>current as of April 16</i>).</li> <li>On April 22, 2020, the Government of Manitoba announced a \$120,000,000 loan program called The Manitoba Gap Protection Program. Eligible</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tuition refunds are determined on a school-by-school basis (<i>current as of May 21</i>).</li> </ul>
Public (including English, French, and Senior Year Technology Education)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Learning in classrooms will be full-time for students in kindergarten through Grade 8 and for special-needs students in all grades, with five days of instruction per week. Some remote learning may be required for students in grades 9 to 12, based on the ability of high schools to implement necessary</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No student will be held back due to the COVID-19 pandemic, but students must actively engage in learning (<i>current as of June 18</i>).</li> <li>Students in K–Grade 8 will proceed to the next grade in</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Teachers will teach remotely, assign work, conduct assessments and prepare final report cards (<i>current as of March 31</i>).</li> <li>The My Learning at Home portal launched on April 9 and the portal can</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>For students in Grade 12, provincial exams are cancelled, but teacher assessments will be implemented (<i>current as of June 18</i>).</li> <li>All students will receive final grades and a report card in June. Reporting of final grades will follow</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Not applicable.</li> </ul>

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	<p>public health measures including physical distancing and the use of cohorts (designated groups of students) to minimize the risk of COVID-19 transmission, and to support contact tracing. (Current as of July 30).</p>	<p>September (current as of June 18).</p>	<p>be found <a href="#">here</a> (current as of April 28).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Government of Manitoba partnered with the Pembina Trails School Division and St. James-Assiniboia School Division to offer expanded access to InformNet online courses during the suspension of in-school classes (current as of April 16).</li> <li>School Divisions and School Leaders are responsible for reviewing and reallocating resources as needed to facilitate teaching and learning, i.e., non-teaching staff, technology, online platforms, print-based materials (current as of April 28).</li> <li>On May 4, 2020, the Government of Manitoba announced that the province is expanding its partnership with InformNet to increase access to summer school</li> </ul>	<p>Manitoba Provincial Report Card Policy and Guidelines. Report cards will also indicate whether the student will require recovery learning. A provincial directive is forthcoming to provide greater clarity on expectations for teachers and implications for the next school year (current as of June 18).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Students in Grades 9–12 will receive, at minimum, the grades they achieved at the time of suspension of classes, but they will be required to engage in remote learning. Students will have the opportunity to increase marks. Students who do not engage in remote learning will be required to undertake recovery learning next school year (current as of April 28).</li> </ul>	<p>“businesses” will receive a \$6,000 non-interest bearing forgivable loan. The business must attest that it has not received “any major non-repayable COVID-19 federal supports such as the Canada Emergency Business Account and Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy, as well as, sector-specific grant federal programs specifically developed in response to the pandemic”, see <a href="#">here</a> (current as of April 22).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>On April 24, 2020, the Government of Manitoba launched the Summer Student Recovery Plan, a new wage subsidy program to support high school and post-secondary students employed in the private and non-profit sectors. Up to \$120 million is available for employers to access a \$7 per hour wage subsidy, up to a maximum of \$5,000 per student. The program is open to Manitoba students aged 15 to 29, with an employment period from May 1 to September 4, 2020 (current as of April 24).</li> <li>A total of \$48 million in savings is available to ensure that schools</li> </ul>	

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			<p>programming for grade 9 to 12 students in Manitoba. Student fees for summer school courses will be waived for 2020 and there will be no cap on enrolment. Register <a href="#">here</a> (current as of May 4).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Remote learning continues but will wind down throughout June as student assessment and transition planning begins. This planning may be done remotely or in person depending on local needs and individual considerations.</li> </ul>		are COVID-ready in September. (Current as of July 30).	

## Post-Secondary Institutions – Manitoba Education

Private (including religious institutions and private vocational institutions)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Government of Manitoba issued a new order on March 30, 2020 for the physical closure of all businesses, except critical services. Post-secondary intuitions are not listed in the</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Determined on a school-by-school basis (current as of May 21).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Determined on a school-by-school basis (current as of May 21).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Determined on a school-by-school basis (current as of May 21).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Generally, the Government of Manitoba (i) released a supplement to the Budget 2020, including fiscal flexibility to respond to COVID-19, on March 19, which included nearly \$1 billion in financial flexibility including an increase of the rainy</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tuition refunds are determined on a school-by-school basis (current as of May 21).</li> </ul>
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Public	<p>schedule of critical services (<i>current as of March 31</i>).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Government of Manitoba issued an order on April 13, 2020 that effectively extends the March 30 order to April 28, 2020.</li> <li>Several post-secondary institutions have closed campuses, but continue to offer online services.</li> <li>The second phase of reopening Manitoba started June 1. Post-secondary institutions and vocational colleges may provide learning in settings where learning and/or research requires hands-on experience. Facilities may also open for staff, students and specific programs such as senior undergraduate/ graduate level courses. However, the occupancy in classrooms, labs or teaching sites is limited to 50 per cent of the usual capacity of the space, or a maximum of 25 students, whichever is less.</li> <li>The list of guidelines which must be followed by both staff and students can be found <a href="#">here</a>. (<i>current as of June 18</i>).</li> </ul>				<p>day fund to \$800 million, and (ii) established a call centre to help businesses, not-for-profits and charities facing economic challenges due to COVID-19 connect with support programs (<i>current as of April 16</i>).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>On April 22, 2020, the Government of Manitoba announced a \$120,000,000 loan program called The Manitoba Gap Protection Program. Eligible “businesses” will receive a \$6,000 non-interest bearing forgivable loan. The business must attest that it has not received “any major non-repayable COVID-19 federal supports such as the Canada Emergency Business Account and Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy, as well as, sector-specific grant federal programs specifically developed in response to the pandemic”, see <a href="#">here</a> (<i>current as of April 22</i>).</li> <li>On April 24, 2020, the Government of Manitoba launched the Summer Student Recovery Plan, a new wage subsidy program to support high school and post-secondary students employed in the private</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Government of Manitoba does not currently charge interest on student loans (<i>current as of April 17</i>).</li> <li>Manitoba Student Loan repayments will be suspended until September 30, 2020 (<i>current as of April 17</i>).</li> <li>The Government of Manitoba is actively reviewing options to further support students as part of a whole-of-government effort to prepare for and mitigate the effects of COVID-19 (<i>current as of April 17</i>).</li> <li>On May 6, 2020, the Government of Manitoba announced that the province is: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>temporarily matching contributions from universities and colleges under the MSBI for 2020-21 with a 1:1 instead of a 1:2 ratio;</li> <li>committing \$5 million to the MSBI program on top of the \$10 million announced in</li> </ul> </li> </ul>



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					<p>and non-profit sectors. Up to \$120 million is available for employers to access a \$7 per hour wage subsidy, up to a maximum of \$5,000 per student. The program is open to Manitoba students aged 15 to 29, with an employment period from May 1 to September 4, 2020 (<i>current as of April 24</i>).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Manitoba announced the creation of a one-time “transitional support fund” for postsecondary institutions. it will help improve online learning, address enrolment changes related to international students and ‘align programming to labour market demands (<i>current as of May 27</i>)</li> </ul>	<p>Budget 2020, to maximize funds for students during the pandemic; and</p> <p>increasing the Manitoba Bursary Program by \$1.8 million for 2020-2021.</p>

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## A special note about the Federal Government's directive with respect to post-secondary students and recent graduates:

- Post-secondary students and recent graduates who are ineligible for the Canada Emergency Response Benefit or for Employment Insurance, but who are unable to find full-time employment or are unable to work due to COVID-19, may apply for the Canada Emergency Student Benefit (CESB). The CESB would provide \$1,250 per month for eligible students from May through August 2020, and \$2,000 for students with dependents and those with permanent disabilities. The CESB will be delivered by CRA. More information is found [here](#) (*current as of May 13*).
- The Government of Canada announced a new Canada Student Service Grant which will provide up to \$5,000 to support student's post-secondary education costs in the fall. More details to follow (*current as of April 22*).
- The Government of Canada will revise the Canada Student Loan Program's eligibility requirements in 2020-21 to allow more students to qualify for supports and be eligible for greater amounts, including doubling the non-repayable Canada Student Grants for full and part time students, as well as for students with disabilities and students with dependents, in the coming academic year. The changes are expected to expand the reach of the program and the benefit to more than 760,000 students at an estimated cost of approximately \$1.9 billion over two years starting in 2020-21 (*current as of April 22*).
- The Government of Canada will revise various student and youth employment programs, such as the Youth Employment and Skills Strategy. More information is found [here](#) (*current as of April 22*).

## A special note about the Federal Government's directive with respect to international students:

- As announced on March 20, 2020, international students who held a valid study permit or had been approved for a study permit when the travel restrictions took effect on March 18, 2020, will be able travel to Canada by air or land. They will be exempt from air travel and border restrictions. This exemption is to accommodate students who are in the middle of their course of study or who have just been approved to study in Canada but were outside Canada when the travel restrictions took effect (*current as of March 26*).
- Courses of study being delivered online on an exceptional basis due to COVID 19 will not affect Post-Graduation Work Permit (PGWP) Program eligibility (*current as of March 26*).
- Students who have a study permit or who have been approved for a study permit for a program starting in May or June may begin their classes while outside Canada and may complete up to 50% of their program while outside Canada if they cannot travel to Canada sooner (*current as of April 16*).
- Individuals who are already legally in Canada will be able to remain in the country (*current as of March 26*).
- Temporary residents who are currently in Canada are able to apply to extend their status online if they need to extend their status. A temporary resident who has applied to extend their status is allowed to remain in Canada until a decision is made on their new application, even if their initial status expires while they are waiting for that decision. This is called implied status (*current as of March 26*).
- At least one post-secondary institution has suspended the intake of new incoming International students from overseas for the Spring Semester beginning in May (*current as of March 26*).
- The Government of Canada is temporarily allowing international students holding study permits, who are eligible to work off campus and already present in Canada, to work more than 20 hours per week while classes are in session, provided they are working in an essential service or function, such as health care, critical infrastructure, or the supply of food or other critical goods. This change is in effect until August 31, 2020 (*current as of April 22*).

## Information about the Government of Manitoba's response to COVID-19 can be found directly at:

- <https://manitoba.ca/covid19/infomanitobans/index.html> (Ensuring Manitobans Stay Safe and Healthy, Home-Based Child Care Providers...)
- <https://manitoba.ca/covid19/infomanitobans/index.html> (Ensuring Manitobans Stay Safe and Healthy, Schools)
- <https://web36.gov.mb.ca/ss/controller?action=newUpdates>
- <https://manitoba.ca/bg/2020/04/covid19.html>
- <https://www.edu.gov.mb.ca/>

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