

October 8th, 2020

Parents, guardians and caregivers,

Each of us continue to have a significant role in helping to support public health measures and reduce the spread of COVID-19.

As we head into the first holiday long weekend of the school year, I want to encourage you to consider how many people outside your household you have contact with. I hope you will celebrate Thanksgiving responsibly, so that we can limit the spread of the virus in our communities, and by extension, in our schools.

Dr. Roussin has encouraged Manitobans, and those visiting from out of province, to focus on the fundamentals to help stop the spread of COVID-19. This includes:

- staying home if you're sick, even if your symptoms are only mild;
- washing/sanitizing your hands frequently;
- covering your cough;
- practicing physical distancing when you are with people outside of your household; and
- wearing a mask in indoor public spaces in situations where you cannot physically distance, or as required by public health orders.

Manitoba Public Health has created a page online with more information on how to gather safely this Thanksgiving and at other fall events that are happening in our communities. This information can be found at: <https://www.gov.mb.ca/covid19/updates/holidays.html>.

I hope you have a restful and meaningful Thanksgiving.

Dana Rudy
Deputy Minister of Education