

COLD/HAZARDOUS WEATHER GUIDELINES

SCHOOL CLOSURE

Extreme Hazardous Weather

Schools will close when weather and road conditions in Hanover School Division are such that it is not advisable to transport students via school buses. If the weather conditions deteriorate after the school day has started, resulting in unsafe driving conditions that necessitate cancelling bus service for the return trip home, students will remain in school until other arrangements can be made. HSD will not send buses out early.

Extreme Cold Weather

Schools will close due to cold weather when the Environment Canada Kleefer Weather Station temperature (recorded at 6:00 a.m.) is -35° Celsius or colder, or indicates a wind chill of -45° Celsius or colder.

Notification of Weather-Related Closures

Parents/Caregivers will receive an automated phone message between 6:00 a.m. - 8:00 a.m. Closure notices will also be posted at www.HSD.ca and on Twitter @HanoverSD. Visit the HSD website for a list of local news outlets that announce weather-related closures.

If concerned about child safety during periods of extreme weather, parents/caregivers may choose (at their discretion) to keep their children at home. Those choosing to exercise this option should inform the school on that day as per regular absence procedures.

If you have any questions not addressed by these guidelines, please contact your child's school.



INDOOR RECESS

Time spent outdoors is an integral part of the school day. Children need fresh air and exercise, and outside activities/play affords students an opportunity for movement and socialization. However, inclement weather conditions sometimes warrant students to remain indoors during recess/lunch for safety reasons. The decision to limit students' outdoor exposure is at the school principal's discretion and will be based on local weather conditions, including wind direction and outdoor shelter protection.

A shortened outdoor recess period may be considered when the temperature or wind chill is between -25° and -29° Celsius. A temperature or wind chill of -30° Celsius or colder may necessitate moving the recess indoors.

WINTER CLOTHING

Parents/Caregivers can help our students be prepared for their walk to school and recess activities by dressing them in layers and ensuring their child has a toque, mitts and warm winter boots. Warm winter clothing is essential in Manitoba, and facial protection is recommended. Including an extra pair of socks and mittens in your child's backpack will ensure they have dry replacements if needed.

BUS DELAY BULLETINS

The HSD Transportation Department will post delay bulletins for buses running more than 10 minutes late. Access bus delay bulletins by scanning the QR code below or by visiting HSD.ca.



hsd.ca/services/transportation



HOT WEATHER GUIDELINES

HUMIDEX

Humidex is a measure of how hot we feel. It is an equivalent scale that expresses the combined effects of warm temperatures and humidity. It provides a number that describes how hot people feel, much like the equivalent chill temperature, or wind chill factor. Humidex is used as a measure of perceived heat resulting from excessive humidity and high temperature combined.

Environment Canada uses humidex ratings to inform the general public when heat and humidity are possibly unsafe. The relation between humidex values and comfort is subjective and varies widely between individuals.

HUMIDEX RANGES

- Less than 29: No discomfort
- 30 to 39: Some discomfort
- 40 to 45: Great discomfort; avoid exertion
- Above 45: Dangerous; Heat stroke possible

HUMIDEX ADVISORY

A Humidex Advisory is issued when the air temperature is over 30°C and the Humidex is over 40°C. One or more of the following actions may be necessary when Environment Canada has issued a Humidex Advisory:

- Announcements reminding students/staff of hydration needs. During hot/humid days, it is recommended to consume a minimum of 1-cup of water for every 20 to 30 minutes of physical activity.
- A cool location is made available in the building to allow students/staff to cool down during break and lunch times.
- Activities are modified that involve physical exertion, exposure to the sun, and hot environments (rest periods, hydration, activity location change, and greater vigilance for heat stress symptoms).

HEAT ILLNESS

Heat illness can range from heat exhaustion to heat stroke, with heat stroke being a potentially fatal illness. Many factors influence the onset of heat illness. In hot weather, students should wear light, loose-fitting clothing and drink plenty of water.

School staff are trained to recognize signs and symptoms of heat stress, along with the causes, treatment and preventative action.

UV INDEX

When the UV index is high, principals may consider limiting outdoor exposure for students. The numbers on the scale indicate the strength of the sun's UV rays. The higher the number, the stronger the sun, and the greater the need to take precautions.

VALUES

- UNDER 2 (LOW)
Minimal sun protection is required.
- 3-5 (MODERATE)
Take precautions, cover up, wear a hat and use sunscreen, especially if outside for 30 minutes or more.
- 6-7 (HIGH)
Protections required. UV damages the skin and can cause sunburn. Reduce time in the sun between 11 a.m. and 3 p.m., and take full precautions.
- 8+ (VERY HIGH)
Unprotected skin can be damaged and burn quickly. Avoid the sun between 11 a.m. and 3 p.m., take full precautions, and seek shade.

If you have any questions not addressed by these guidelines, please contact your child's school.

