

CIRCULAR

Date: June 11, 2020

CIRCULAR NUMBER: COVID#: 2020-98

To: All child care facilities, ELCC program staff

Subject: **Continuing the Re-Opening of Child Care Services**

Program(s): all

Type: Policy For Internal Reference Only
 Procedure Information Only

Effective Date Immediately

Today, the province announced it continues to move forward with *Restoring Safe Services: Manitoba's Pandemic and Economic Roadmap for Recovery* with the release of a Phase 3 Draft Plan. The Draft Plan proposes to allow child care facilities to be able to work towards safely increasing their operations to full regular licensing capacity beginning June 21, 2020. Child care services are a critical part of the staged re-opening of Manitoba's economy, and the province recognizes the need to support Manitobans as they return to work. The announcement can be read in full at:

<https://news.gov.mb.ca/news/index.html?item=48437&posted=2020-06-11>

The temporary child care system will remain in place until the end of August with the **resumption of regular child care service beginning August 31, 2020.**

A webinar with Dr. Roussin, Manitoba's Chief Medical Officer of Health, will be held on Wednesday June 17 from 1pm to 2pm to answer questions and to understand what additional information would be helpful in re-opening, including any updates to [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Early Learning and Child Care Practice Guidance](#). Instructions register for the webinar will be sent very soon in a separate communication.

Planning for the Next Steps

- Child care centres should be making plans to safely increase capacity in their centres to their regular, licensed levels. Plans should consider your ability to manage COVID-19 health and hygiene protocols, as well as matching staff levels with currently occupied spaces and predicted demand. The option for child care centres to begin to return to regular capacity is tentatively scheduled to take effect June 21.

- Centres should already be contacting their existing, regular families and any families seeking care to fill vacancies in order to assist centres and families in planning for child care over the summer and into Fall 2020.
- Centres can consider implementing regular policies immediately, including parent fees, but should not displace children who are receiving care under the Temporary Child Care System before August 28, 2020.
- Please note that the temporary child care website at <https://eswchildcare.ca/> will continue to be used for child care facilities to share information about available spaces with families who require child care, supporting Manitoba's economic recovery.

We will continue to work with child care facilities and are committed to providing regular updates and information to the sector. All circulars are publicly available at: <https://manitoba.ca/covid19/infomanitobans/famcirculars.html#elcc>.

We appreciate the work of all child care facilities that are open and have assisted with the provincial COVID-19 response. We are committed to continue to support the sector during the safe restoration of regular services.

For the latest provincial public health information on COVID-19, including helpful information for citizens, service providers and employers, please regularly visit the Manitoba government's website at: www.manitoba.ca/covid19.

Sarah Thiele | Assistant Deputy Minister
Child and Youth Services