

DEPARTMENT OF FAMILIES CIRCULAR

Date: May 10, 2021

CIRCULAR NUMBER: 2021-26r - COVID-19 (revisions in bold font)

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To: Early Learning and Child Care Facilities

Subject: Changes to Education system and impact for early learning and child care

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Type:  Policy

Procedure

Effective Date: Wednesday, May 12, 2021

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Effective Wednesday, May 12, all Kindergarten to Grade 12 schools in the City of Winnipeg and City of Brandon will move to remote learning. This period of remote learning is in place until May 30, 2021 to coincide with other public health orders.

Schools in full remote learning will be able to accommodate Kindergarten to Grade 6 children of critical services workers who cannot make alternative care arrangements if they are not required to self-isolate. In addition, schools will also be able to accommodate Kindergarten to Grade 12 high-risk students and those with special needs.

Dr. Roussin and public health state that Manitoba is not seeing the same amount of cases in child care settings as they are in schools. Public health also states that there is less risk of transmission and severe disease in younger children.

At this point, Dr. Roussin and public health are not recommending changes to cohort sizes. **All licensed early learning and child care (ELCC) facilities may remain open to provide child care services, including sites in Winnipeg and Brandon, unless otherwise directed by public health (e.g., if directed to close partially or fully after a contact tracing investigation).** However, children who are on remote learning at **home** should not attend child care facilities before or after school hours.

**ELCC facilities are not responsible to provide educational support to children on remote learning.**

- Children who are on remote learning at home should not attend before and after school care as they will be remote learning.
- Children who are on remote learning at home should not attend full day child care as they will be remote learning.

- **Children who are attending in-school learning, may attend before and after school child care.**
  - **This means that children who are attending school in-person because they have special needs or parents/guardians who are critical services workers and cannot make alternative care arrangements may continue to attend before and after school child care in Winnipeg and Brandon.**

**At this time, schools outside of the City of Winnipeg and City of Brandon remain open for in-school learning. The information listed above would come into effect if additional schools located outside of Winnipeg or Brandon move to remote learning following guidance from public health.**

Effective this week, shipments of personal protective equipment (PPE) to the child care sector will increase from 100,000 units per month to 1.1 million units per month to meet increased mask use requirements and the medical grade of masks will increase. Details on the distribution of PPE and new PPE procedures guide will be sent to facilities this week.

Public health officials will continue to review data and other measures to determine if changes are needed.

As noted in circular 2020-195, it is important that we continue to prioritize children whose parents are critical service workers. Please refer to this circular for more information: <https://www.gov.mb.ca/fs/pubs/2020-195elcc-prioritizing-critical-service-workers.pdf>

For the latest provincial public health information on COVID-19, visit: [www.manitoba.ca/covid19](http://www.manitoba.ca/covid19)

The Early Learning and Child Care Program continues to monitor and update resources related to COVID-19 and child care in Manitoba. For operational updates and directives, visit: Manitoba Families COVID-19 Notices and Circulars: <https://www.gov.mb.ca/fs/covid-circulars.html>

We continue to appreciate the ongoing commitment of the child care sector to providing quality care, while also ensuring that precautions are taken to prevent the spread of COVID-19. We would like to extend our sincere thanks for your efforts throughout this difficult time.

If you have any questions, please email [cdcinfo@gov.mb.ca](mailto:cdcinfo@gov.mb.ca) or call 204-945-0776 or 1-888-213-4754.

Thank you,

Christy Holnbeck  
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Early Learning and Child Care Program