

**DEPARTMENT OF FAMILIES CIRCULAR**

**Date:** January 4, 2022

**CIRCULAR NUMBER:** COVID-19: 2022-02

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**To:** Early Learning and Child Care Facilities

**Subject:** Recommendations for Nursery and School Age Facilities during the remote learning period for schools

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**Type:**  Policy

Procedure

**Effective Date:** Immediately

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Manitoba Education has recently announced that most students will be learning remotely from January 10 to 14, 2022. This phased-in approach to the return to school will provide time to continue putting measures in place to manage transmission of COVID-19 in the school environment and to give public health more time to learn about the omicron variant's effects in Manitoba.

As of January 10, students of critical service workers in Kindergarten to Grade Six and all at-risk students and students with special learning needs in Kindergarten to Grade 12 will be allowed to attend school if no alternate care is available. Current plans are to have all other students return to in-person learning on January 17.

This phased-in approach will allow school divisions and schools to have time to prepare operational plans, including planning for potential for staffing shortages and expected absenteeism due to isolation requirements. **It is strongly recommended that nursery school and school age programs reduce services while students are not attending schools.**

Specifically, it is strongly recommended that facilities limit services for Kindergarten and school age children to those who are continuing to attend in-person learning at school during the period of remote learning (i.e., [Critical Services Workers](#), at-risk students and students with special learning needs). It is recommended that students who are not attending school, not be allowed to attend child care facilities. Child care facilities can work with families to address individual circumstances if care is an urgent concern.

All other licensed child care facilities can continue to operate during the period while school services are suspended. This includes centres, nursery schools and family child care homes. All facilities are strongly encouraged to develop temporary enrolment policies prioritizing services and enrolment of critical service workers' children.

To remain aligned with schools, child care programs that normally operate on the school year calendar and extended their seasonal closure can re-open on January 10.

We recognize that this reduction in child care services will cause increased financial pressures on licensed child care facilities due to the loss of parent fee revenue. Please see [circular 2022-01](#) for information on the Parent Fee Support Grant.

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.  
Early Learning and Child Care Program