

# COVID-19 NOVEL CORONAVIRUS

## Children's disABILITY Services COVID-19 bulletin - November 2020

Children's disABILITY Services (CDS) remains available to support children with disabilities and their families by adapting our services to follow current public health measures.

### In-person meetings suspended

With all of Manitoba having moved to the Critical (red) level of pandemic response, CDS has suspended in-person meetings for case management, child development, autism outreach and behavioural psychology services. CDS staff remain available by telephone, email and also virtual meeting to your family, as they have been throughout the pandemic. As child care centres and schools remain in Code Orange, CDS services are still available in those environments.

### Family supports remain available

Please reach out to your case manager at any time about your family's changing needs for disability-related supports. CDS staff can help find answers to your questions and assist you to meet identified needs for your family.

If you need help finding contact information for CDS staff or are having difficulty reaching your case manager, please call your [regional office](#) or 204-945-5898 for assistance.

Despite the change to the pandemic response level, services like respite and employment supports remain available at this time. Families are encouraged to make use of their approved supports like respite, if they can and choose to.

Our direct service providers will self screen for COVID-19 before serving your family and wear appropriate PPE throughout their entire shift.

A reminder to postpone services if any member of your household:

- has COVID-19 [symptoms](#)
- is waiting for results of COVID-19 test
- has been in close contact with someone who has tested positive
- may have been exposed to the virus in an outbreak **or**
- has been directed to self-isolate or quarantine by Public Health.

### Community service providers

Community service providers are also adapting their services in response to the change to the Critical (red) response level. Please contact them to find out how they are adapting their services in accordance to current public health guidelines.

### Disability and health supports

Delivery of equipment and medicals supplies will continue during the pandemic. Questions about deliveries can be made to the Materials Distribution Agency (MDA) at 204-945-2105 or 1-800-561-8313. Requests for disability and health supports should continue to be made to the [Disability and Health Supports Unit](#).

### Education during the pandemic

Schools are expected to communicate directly and frequently with families to provide them with information about the school year and ongoing plans for instruction and supports. If you have questions about your child's learning plan or about how your child will be supported as pandemic response levels change, please contact your child's teacher or school principal.

### Mental health and wellness supports

Your family's mental health and wellness is critical during this time. Many helpful supports for adults and children are found at: [www.manitoba.ca/COVID-19/bewell/](http://www.manitoba.ca/COVID-19/bewell/) or speak to your case manager about supports in your region.

### Share your thoughts

The Family Advocacy Network (FAN) and CDS are interested in hearing from families about their needs and potentially helpful supports during the pandemic. If you are interested in participating in this survey, email the Family Advocacy Network of MB at [families.caregivers@gmail.com](mailto:families.caregivers@gmail.com) to become a member and participate in the upcoming survey.

### Find up-to-date information

As changes happen rapidly during the pandemic, you can find up-to-date information on changes at CDS by visiting [www.gov.mb.ca/fs/cds/index.html](http://www.gov.mb.ca/fs/cds/index.html) or by contacting your community services worker.

Facts are key in the fight against COVID-19. Visit [Manitoba.ca/covid19](http://Manitoba.ca/covid19) for up-to-date on information on public health restrictions, guidelines for various sectors as well as information on pandemic-related financial and social supports.

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