

CIRCULAR

Date: July 9, 2020

CIRCULAR NUMBER: COVID #CDS2020 -106

To: All CDS Program Managers, Community Service Workers, Autism Outreach, Child Development and Resource Coordinators

Subject: Resuming In-Person Service Visits

Program(s): Children's disABILITY Services

Type: Policy For Internal Reference Only
 Procedure Information Only

Effective Date Immediately

Purpose

Effective immediately, CDS staff are encouraged to resume in-person service visits when this is the family's preference. The department has worked with public health to provide guidance on safely resuming in-person services in *COVID-19 Q&As: Services for Children with Disabilities*, which can be found on the province's [COVID-19 website](#). Check for updated information as it becomes available.

- Visiting outdoors is a preferred option to support family visits. All participants should practice good hand hygiene before, during and after the visit, and to maintain physical distancing (two metres or six feet) to the greatest degree possible. No personal protective equipment (PPE) is required for outdoor visits.
- Children with no symptoms should continue to be treated as they typically would be treated by staff, but with physical distancing in place as much as possible.
- Staff visiting family homes must wear a mask continuously, as per public health guidelines. Masks can be worn between multiple client visits and can be removed for breaks, [provided the steps for storage and proper hand hygiene are followed](#). See <https://sharedhealthmb.ca/files/extended-use-of-face-masks.pdf> for direction on how to safely store your mask if it is removed during your shift. Masks should be discarded at the end of the day ([see Appendix C](#)).

- According to the most recent [Early Learning and Child Care COVID-19 Service Guidelines](#), visitors (including service providers) are able to attend child care facilities and will be screened prior to entry by facility staff. PPE is not required in child care facilities.
- In a clinical setting, facility rules on PPE use must be followed during the visit.
- [Screening questions \(Appendix A\)](#) must be used with families before providing in-person services. If the family answers yes to any of the screening questions, the visit should be rescheduled, or delivered remotely.
- If a family answers yes to the screening questions in Appendix A but has a critical service need - as defined in [Appendix B](#) - the staff person should consult with their program manager to decide how the child or family's service need can be met in a way that is safe (e.g., PPE use or alternative/remote service delivery options).

Staff should use the Shared Health [self-assessment tool](#) before attending work. Staff must not attend work if they are ill or exhibiting any cold/flu-like symptoms, even if the symptoms are very mild. If staff have symptoms or may have been exposed to COVID-19, they should contact their immediate supervisor to ensure they are following the most recent protocol. Consult *COVID19 Circular 38-Directive on FAM staff screening – OESH* for further information. All staff are expected to self-screen as per the above self-assessment tool.

- If COVID-19 testing is required, contact your OESH team or local infection prevention and control. Staff can be referred to the following memo on COVID-19 Workplace and HR FAQs for additional information - <https://sharedhealthmb.ca/files/covid-19-workplace-and-hr-faqs.pdf>.
- The number of individuals attending visits should be limited to the minimum number required. Physical distancing between professionals and families/caregivers must be followed to the greatest degree possible.
- Staff should continue to accommodate a family's preference to receive service visits remotely by phone or videoconference.
- See [Appendix C](#) for further information on the safe use and storage of PPE.

Appendix A

Service Visit Screening Questions

1. Have you or anyone in your household been in contact with anyone who has travelled outside of Manitoba (other than northwestern Ontario, the territories or western Canada) within the past 14 days?
2. Have you or anyone in your household been in contact in the last 14 days with someone that is confirmed to have COVID-19?
3. Have you or anyone in your household been in a setting in the last 14 days that has been identified by Public Health as a high risk for acquiring COVID-19, such as on a flight, in a workplace with a cluster of cases, or at an event?
4. Are you or anyone in your household currently experiencing any of the following symptoms:
 - a. Fever/chills;
 - b. Severe difficulty breathing, chest pain, confusion, extreme drowsiness, loss of consciousness;
 - c. Cough, sore throat/hoarse voice;
 - d. Loss of taste or smell, or vomiting or diarrhea for more than 24 hours; or
 - e. Onset of two or more of the following symptoms: runny nose, muscle aches, fatigue, conjunctivitis (pink eye), headache, skin rash of unknown cause, or nausea or loss of appetite?

Appendix B

Critical Service Criteria

A critical service need is being defined as the following:

In the absence of service:

- there is imminent risk of family breakdown, which may or may not result in CFS involvement;
- the parent will lose their employment;
- the child with disabilities and/or parent is at risk of hospitalization; or
- the child with disabilities and/or parent is at risk of suffering an injury or experiencing a negative impact to their safety.

If the answer to any of the above criteria is yes, the service would be deemed critical.

Appendix C

Safe Use and Storage of PPE

Masks

- Staff are provided one mask that is to be used throughout the shift unless it becomes wet or soiled and must be discarded.
- If the mask is removed during the shift (e.g. breaks and meals), fold it and store it in a way to prevent contamination (e.g. in a reusable container that is cleaned and disinfected before each use, or if a reusable container is not available, in a dry paper bag [11 x 6 with a 3.5" gusset] or large envelope that is discarded after each use). Close the top of the paper bag. If using a large envelope, ensure the ear loops are kept outside the envelope and then close the envelope.
- Refer to Shared Health's detailed guidelines on proper removal, storage and extended use of masks found online [here](#).
- Discard mask after every shift and if it becomes wet or soiled.