

CIRCULAR

Date: September 18, 2020

CIRCULAR NUMBER: COVID-19 2020-128

To: Early learning and child care providers

Subject: **Prairie Mountain Health Region
– Information for child care facilities – UPDATE**

Program(s): Early Learning and Child Care

Type: Policy

Procedure

Effective Date: September 18, 2020

Topic:

No changes for child care facilities in Prairie Mountain Health region with the return to Caution (yellow) level; mandatory mask use in child care facilities continues

As of Friday, September 18, the Prairie Mountain Health region has been lowered to the Caution (yellow) level, according to the #RestartMB Pandemic Response System. The press conference announcing the change can be viewed by going to www.youtube.com/user/ManitobaGovernment and then clicking on the video for “COVID-19 update – September 17.”

While public health orders for the Prairie Mountain Health region no longer require mandatory mask use, child care facilities province-wide are to follow the mask requirements per ELCC circular COVID-19: 2020-138. Please refer to that circular for specific requirements and resources for sharing with families.

To align with the Department of Education, and to ensure that no child (grade four and up) is turned away from child care due to attending without a mask, facilities will soon be provided with 2 reusable masks per employee and a supply of reusable masks for children (grade four and up) who attend a child care facility without their own mask. Close to 23,000 masks for child care providers and 26,000 masks for children (grade four and up) will be provided. It is expected these masks will be sent out in the near future.

We would also like to take this opportunity to remind child care providers that posters related to COVID-19 prevention and proper mask usage are available online at <https://www.gov.mb.ca/fs/covid-circulars.html#elcc>. Providers are encouraged to display the posters in highly visible locations throughout their facilities.

No changes were made to child care facilities' occupancy limits in response to the region being raised to the Restricted (orange) level, and as such no occupancy changes are needed with the return to the Caution (yellow) level.

As previously communicated, child care providers are encouraged to regularly review [public health orders](#) for their respective region to be aware of any new requirements and how they apply to the child care sector.

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 is commendable. We would like to extend our sincere appreciation for your efforts throughout this difficult time.

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

Sincerely,
Early Learning and Child Care Program