

**CIRCULAR**

**Date:** November 12, 2020

**CIRCULAR NUMBER:** COVID-19 2020-172(r)

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**To:** Program Managers/Regional Directors/Community Area Directors

**Subject:** Restrictions for CLDS in Regions Designated as Red (Critical) - Revised

**Replaces:** COVID #2020-103 - Visitation Restrictions Eased for CLDS Participants Living in Residential Care Facilities

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**Type:**  Policy

Procedure

**Effective Date:** November 2, 2020

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*Revised information is in bold*

The chief provincial public health officer has set the #RestartMB Pandemic Response System level to Critical (red) for **all of Manitoba, effective Thursday, November 12.**

Additional precautions are being put in place for the Community Living disABILITY Services (CLDS) program that will affect visitation in residential care facilities, as well as day services **and community-based recreation and leisure activities.**

**Day Services**

CLDS day services will only be offered at this time if they are considered critical. This approach will remain in effect until further notice. See the previously-distributed circular, *COVID #2020-87 Critical Day Services Approach Remains in Effect*, for more information on other daytime support options.

**Critical need**

To ensure the continued safety and well-being of CLDS participants and agency staff, and to help curb the spread of COVID-19, day services may continue only in situations where there is a critical need. This includes:

- participants living with family members who are at risk of losing employment if day services are not provided and do not have other daytime options;

- participants supported by home share providers who are unable to provide care during daytime hours, and where other arrangements are not possible;
- participants who cannot be safely supported in their residence during daytime hours;
- **participants whose mental health has been significantly impacted by the pandemic and require access to day services to maintain their mental health; or**
- **participants who receive supported employment and are at risk of losing their employment if supports are not provided.**

### **Access to Critical Day Services with COVID-19 Case(s) or Suspected COVID-19 Case(s)**

If a CLDS participant or staff member attending a day service become a COVID-19 case or a suspected COVID-19 case, the day service will be suspended until a negative COVID-19 test result is confirmed. If the person tests positive for COVID-19, the day service will be suspended until direction is provided by the Department of Families regarding a safe reopening. CLDS participants or staff who are self-isolating because another member of their household is symptomatic must not attend or work, pending COVID-19 test results.

### **Access to Community-Based Recreation and Leisure Activities**

All non-critical, community-based recreation and leisure activities are suspended until further notice. Low risk activities, such as going outside for a walk, may continue for CLDS participants (or anyone in their household) who are not a COVID-19 case or suspected COVID-19 case.

### **Visitation to Residential Care Facilities**

A “visitor” is any person the resident and/or their substitute decision maker identifies and designates as their visitor. This may include a family member, friend, advocate or someone in the resident’s support network. It does not include service providers, such as community service workers, respite providers, direct support providers or direct service workers.

Each resident may designate up to two visitors that can visit the facility.

- For indoor visits, only one of the designated visitors may visit the facility at a time. For shift-staffed homes, the visitor must comply with the same personal protective equipment (PPE) requirements as the staff working in the home. In general, this means a medical mask and protective eye wear. If the visitor does not have access to this type of PPE, the facility will be asked to provide it. The department will then increase the PPE supply to that service provider. As PPE is not provided to home shares, the visitor must bring and wear their own mask. A cloth mask is acceptable.

- **For outdoor visits, one or both of the designated visitors may visit the facility at a time. Visitors are encouraged to wear a mask during the visit. Cloth masks are acceptable. The facility is not required to provide a mask to visitors for an outdoor visit. If the facility chooses to do so, the department will be unable to increase the supply of masks for that purpose. Visitors are not required to wear protective eye wear during outdoor visits.**

**The total number of visitors at a facility at a time cannot exceed three (one indoor visitor and two outdoor visitors) for all residents. Facility operators or staff are responsible for determining visiting hours and the duration of visits. While a facility may have up to three total visitors at a time, operators and staff are encouraged to stagger visitation.**

**Facility operators and staff must continue to screen visitors prior to each visit (see Appendix). All residents and visitors must practice hand hygiene before and after any visit and maintain physical distancing (two meters or six feet apart) wherever possible.**

**Family members, friends and support network members are encouraged to connect with residents by telephone, social media or virtually to minimize in-person visits.**

#### **Visitation to Residential Care Facilities with COVID-19 Case(s) or Suspected COVID-19 Case(s)**

- Visits will be suspended, unless critical to the participant's well-being.
- **Indoor and outdoor visits may be considered in exceptional circumstances on a case-by-case basis with the appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) supplied to the service provider by the department and with all necessary precautions implemented.**

**Visitation restrictions apply to all visits to residential care facilities.**

**Out-of-home visitation for residential care facility residents is suspended at this time.**

Given that many CLDS participants are at a higher risk of contracting the virus or at higher risk of serious illness, the department has consulted with public health officials to develop this approach.

Thank you to all staff for their patience and dedication as we work through the challenges that continue to arise. We will continue to provide further information and direction related to delivering services during COVID-19.

If you have any questions, please contact your regional program manager or regular contact at Centralized Services and Resources.

Catherine Gates | Acting Assistant Deputy Minister

Community Service Delivery

Sandra Dorbolo | Acting Executive Director  
Disability Programs and Specialized Services

Brian Malkowich | Acting Executive Director  
Regional Social Services

c. Distribution List

### **Appendix**

#### **Screening Precautions for Visitors:**

Prior to any visit, facility operators or staff must conduct a pre-screening assessment that ensures the visitor has not, in the past 14 days:

- returned from travel outside of Manitoba, excluding travel to Western Canada, the Territories or Ontario west of Terrace Bay;
- had exposure to a confirmed case of COVID-19;
- been instructed to self-isolate;
- had new onset of symptoms associated with COVID-19 (i.e., cough, fever, runny nose, sore throat, weakness or headache).

If the screening indicates the visitor may be a COVID-19 case or suspected COVID-19 case, the visit will not be allowed to occur.