



## Health, Seniors and Active Living

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

Dear Provider,

Thank you for all of your work over the past several months. While this has been a difficult time for all Manitobans, Early Learning and Child Care (ELCC) providers have faced unique challenges related to the COVID-19 pandemic. The health and safety of children and staff is a priority for the Manitoba government.

### Medical-Grade Masks

Child care is a critical service. In order to ensure the safety of staff, children and families, the medical masks provided to your sector are consistent with current best practice and are the same as those provided to personal care homes. N95 masks are not required when caring for children in an ELCC setting. It is also important to note that for a N95 mask to be most effective, the mask must be professionally fit-tested for the individual who will be wearing it. Medical-grade masks, such as those sent to facilities by the Department of Families, should be worn by staff working in ELCC programs. None of the masks provided by the department have been subject to a recall, as of this time.

### Prevention

As a reminder, practicing the fundamentals is crucial to preventing the spread of COVID-19. For staff in ELCC programs, this includes:

- self-screening for symptoms before attending work each day, using the questions at [https://www.gov.mb.ca/asset\\_library/en/coronavirus/covid19\\_screening\\_checklist.pdf](https://www.gov.mb.ca/asset_library/en/coronavirus/covid19_screening_checklist.pdf) or the online assessment tool at <https://sharedhealthmb.ca/covid19/screening-tool/>
- staying home and not going to work when ill, even if your symptoms are very mild
- staying home and not going to work if you have been tested for COVID-19 and have not yet received the results
- washing/sanitizing your hands and covering your coughs and sneezes
- properly and consistently using personal protective equipment (as directed by the Department of Families)
- implementing increased environmental cleaning/disinfection

In closing, thank you again for your diligent efforts to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Sincerely,

**Dr. Brent Roussin, MD, JD, MPH, FRCPC**

Manitoba Chief Provincial Public Health Officer

Manitoba Health, Seniors and Active Living

cc. Christina Moody, Acting Assistant Deputy Minister, Child and Youth Services  
Catherine Gates, Assistant Deputy Minister, Community Service Delivery