

CIRCULAR

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To: Programs and Services funded by the Department of Families (including CFS Authorities and Agencies) and department staff

Subject: Critical Services Worker definition

Type: Policy

Procedure

Effective Date: November 26, 2020

With the province-wide escalation to critical (red) on the Pandemic Response System, many schools and Early Learning and Child Care (ELCC) facilities are making plans should they also be placed at the critical level. Currently, these sectors remain at the restricted (orange) level.

Many staff with preschool and school-age children have received surveys from their ELCC providers and schools, asking them to indicate whether they are a Critical Services Worker. These surveys will provide facilities with a sense of how many children would continue to attend, should the sectors shift to critical (red).

A number of departmental employees and service providers have inquired about whether they/their staff are considered to be Critical Services Workers. The Departments of Education and Families (responsible for oversight of the ELCC sector) are using the same definition of Critical Services Worker, as follows:

Tier One:

- Health and health services
- Child care workers (early childhood educators, child care assistants, centre administrators and support staff)
- Kindergarten-to-Grade 12 education providers (teachers, administrators and support staff)
- Law enforcement
- Corrections workers

- Fire and paramedic first responders
- Direct social services and child protection workers

Following accommodation of Tier One, schools and ELCC facilities will then accommodate additional Critical Services Workers. This may include those such as front-line natural resource workers, essential supply chain staff (e.g., truck drivers delivering food, medications and other essential goods; food industry staff working in food processing plants, etc.), gas station attendants and grocery store staff.

Examples of frontline “direct social services workers” that would be considered Critical Services Workers are:

- Child and Youth Care Practitioners working in group/residential care settings
- Staff working in Child and Family Services (CFS) group homes
- Community Living disABILITY Services (CLDS) direct service workers
- CLDS and CDS direct support providers and respite providers
- Community service workers, behavioral specialists, resource assistants and clinical professionals who support CFS, CLDS and CDS families and children
- Staff who process Child and Adult Abuse Registry Checks
- CLDS and CFS licensing specialists and provincial investigators
- StreetReach staff
- Adoption staff
- CFS Agency and Authority staff
- Child development and autism outreach staff
- Employment and Income Assistance (EIA) front-line staff
- Social housing property, security and tenant services staff including non-profit providers

There are a number of other critical departmental staff including but not limited to key financial positions, policy analysts, business analysts, etc. Any staff members that are uncertain whether they would qualify as a Critical Services Worker should check with their supervisor.

For more information on planning for red within the education and ELCC sectors, see

- Education: <https://www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/covid/docs/covidcircoc272020.pdf>
- ELCC: <https://www.gov.mb.ca/fs/pubs/2020-174planning-critical-red-elcc-facilities-attachment.pdf>

Sincerely,

Kathryn Gerrard
Deputy Minister, Manitoba Families