

COVID-19

NOVEL CORONAVIRUS

Children's disABILITY Services – Department of Families – May 2021

CDS staff remain available by telephone, email and for virtual visits, as staff are not attending in-person meetings while Manitoba remains in Critical (Red) pandemic response level.

Please reach out to your case manager at any time about your family's need for disability-related supports. CDS staff can help find answers to your questions and assist you to meet identified needs for your family.

If you need help finding contact information for CDS staff or are having difficulty reaching your case manager, please call your [regional office](#) or 204-945-5898 for assistance.

Vaccination

On May 14, the province announced that youth ages 12-17 across Manitoba are eligible to book their first-dose appointments for the Pfizer vaccine, available at supersite locations and Indigenous clinics across the province.

To book online, you will need a health card number and email address or you can call 1-844-MAN-VACC (1-844-626-8222). Parents who have questions about the vaccine, the consent process, or how to book an appointment can visit <https://protectmb.ca> for more information, or speak with their local health care provider.

CDS may support families with disability-related barriers getting to their child to appointments. Please contact your Community Service Worker or read the attached [Questions and Answers](#) for more information on accessing vaccines for children with disabilities.

Direct Services

Direct services, like respite and employment support, may still be delivered under [current public health orders](#) and services will be delivered following current COVID-19 protocols (e.g. pre-screening, appropriate PPE, proper hand hygiene, and physical distancing, where possible).

Please postpone services if any member of your household:

- has COVID-19 [symptoms](#), is feeling unwell or is sick,
- is waiting for results of COVID-19 test or has tested positive for COVID-19,
- has been in close contact with a positive case or may have been exposed to the virus in an outbreak, or
- directed by Public Health to self-isolate or quarantine.

Education

Beginning May 12, schools in many regions of Manitoba have moved to remote learning, including in Winnipeg and Brandon. Schools are expected to communicate directly and frequently to families about changes to education.

Schools in full remote learning will be able to accommodate Kindergarten to Grade 6 children of critical services workers who cannot make alternative care arrangements (if they are not required to self-isolate). In addition, school will also be able to accommodate Kindergarten to Grade 12 high-risk students and those with special needs.

Schools remaining open in other parts of Manitoba will remain in Restricted Level (Orange) and will follow additional measures during this period. Schools with multiple cases (outside of same household cases) will be moved proactively to remote learning as per existing guidance.

If you have questions about your child's learning plan or about how your child will be supported as pandemic response levels change, please contact your child's teacher or school principal.

The Department of Education has informational materials for [parents](#) and [educators](#) available online, including resources specific to supporting children with special needs

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Child Care

Child care facilities, including those operating within schools, remain at Restricted (Orange) pandemic response level, except where outbreaks have been declared. At this time, child care facilities will follow the additional measures for schools that remain open.

Children who are on remote learning at school may attend child care facilities before or after school hours as well as on in-service/professional development days.

Children who are on remote learning at home should not attend child care facilities before or after school hours nor should they attend on in-service/professional development days.

Disability and Health Supports

Delivery of equipment and medical supplies, including incontinence products, will continue during the pandemic.

Questions about deliveries can be made to the Materials Distribution Agency (MDA) at 204-945-2105 or 1-800-561-8313.

Requests for disability and health supports should continue to be made to the [Disability and Health Supports Unit](#).

Service Agencies and Therapy Providers

Families are encouraged to connect with service agencies and therapy providers to learn about how they are delivering their services at this time.

Mental health and wellness supports

Your family's mental health and wellness is critical during this time. Many helpful supports for adults and children are found at: www.manitoba.ca/COVID-19/bewell/ or speak to your case manager about supports in your region.

Resources for Families

Find information on disability related and other supports and resources for families raising children with disabilities at: www.gov.mb.ca/fs/cds/resources.html.

COVID-19 Information

Please visit www.manitoba.ca/covid19 for up-to-date and reliable information on COVID-19 in Manitoba.