

DEPARTMENT OF FAMILIES CIRCULAR

Date: June 24, 2020

CIRCULAR NUMBER: COVID #2020-103

Alternate Program(s): N/A

To: Program Managers/Regional Directors/Community Area Directors

Subject: Visitation Restrictions Eased for CLDS Participants Living in Residential Care Facilities

Replaces: COVID #2020-99 – Visitation Restrictions Eased in CLDS Residential Care Facilities

Type: Policy
 Procedure
 Rate
 Information Only

Effective Date: Immediately

Family and friends are integral to the overall health, well being and quality of life of Community Living disABILITY Services (CLDS) participants. While preventing the spread of COVID-19 remains a central priority, we must find a long-term balance between preventative measures and the benefits of social connections for CLDS participants and their loved ones.

In consultation with public health officials, we will begin easing visiting restrictions for CLDS participants who live in residential care facilities. Effective immediately, indoor and outdoor visits with CLDS participants who live in these facilities (i.e., shift-staffed homes or home shares) may resume at the facility or elsewhere **only** if the visitor and resident:

- have not been in close contact with someone who has COVID-19 or is being tested for COVID-19 and the results are pending;
- have not been instructed to self-isolate;
- have not travelled outside Manitoba in the last 14 days; and
- do not have any symptoms associated with COVID-19 (i.e., cough, fever, runny nose, sore throat, weakness or headache).

These criteria apply to all visits (indoor and outdoor) whether they take place at the facility or elsewhere.

In general, anyone arriving in Manitoba is required to self-isolate for 14 days upon arrival to reduce the spread of COVID-19. However, there are exemptions for Manitobans who have travelled to certain areas and are not displaying symptoms of COVID-19. As of June 15, 2020, Manitoba residents who have travelled to western Canada (i.e., British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Yukon, Northwest Territories and Nunavut) or northwestern Ontario (i.e., the

portion of Ontario that is located west of Terrace Bay) are exempt from the self-isolation and travel restrictions. Please visit www.gov.mb.ca/covid19/soe.html for the full list of exemptions.

All residents and visitors must continue to practice hand hygiene before, during (if possible) and after any visit and maintain physical distancing (two metres or six feet apart) wherever possible. Any personal contact should be brief and kept to a minimum.

Indoor visits

A maximum of **one** visitor may be allowed inside a residential care facility at a time. If two or more residents would like to have a visitor on the same day, the visitors must come at different times.

Outdoor visits

A maximum of **two** visitors may be allowed outside a residential care facility at a time. If two or more residents would like to have outdoor visitors, the total number of visitors cannot exceed two at any given time. Given that the risk of transmitting the virus is less likely in outdoor settings, CLDS continues to encourage facility visits to occur outside wherever possible. CLDS also encourages the use of alternative means of communication such as video or phone calls, where appropriate.

Visits to family homes and cabins

Facility residents may visit their family home or a cabin, including overnight stays, if the home or cabin is located in Manitoba or northwestern Ontario. However, residents must meet the above screening criteria when returning to the facility to protect the health of other residents.

Visiting hours and duration of visits

Facility operators or staff are responsible for determining visiting hours and the duration of visits to facilities. CLDS encourages facility operators or staff to consider evening visitation for some portion of visitor hours due to visitors' schedules.

Personal protective equipment (PPE)

Agency staff working in shift-staffed group homes are required to wear PPE while indoors, but not outdoors as long as physical distancing can be maintained. Facility residents and visitors are not required to wear PPE indoors or outdoors. The use of a non-medical (i.e., cloth) mask may be used during visits if they choose to do so.

Managing risk

The vulnerability and health risk of facility residents remains an important consideration. Facility operators or staff should seek medical advice prior to arranging visits at facilities with residents who may be at higher risk of contracting COVID-19 or at higher risk of serious illness.

CLDS will continue to consult with public health officials regarding safe visitation as Manitoba's strategy for restoring safe services evolves. If you have any questions, please contact your Program Specialist.

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cc: Distribution List