

COVID-19 NOVEL CORONAVIRUS

Community Living disABILITY Services

COVID-19 has resulted in many of us making changes to the way we live and how we stay connected with each other. While preventing the spread of COVID-19 remains a priority, we must find a long-term balance between preventative measures and the benefits of social connections for Community Living disABILITY Services (CLDS) participants and their families. We continue to work with public health in making these important decisions.

Visiting CLDS participants who live in shift-staffed homes and home shares

Based on advice from public health, CLDS has loosened visitation restrictions at residential care facilities. If your loved one lives in a shift-staffed home or home share, you may now visit with them indoors or outdoors.

To ensure the health of everyone involved these visits can only happen if you or your loved one:

- 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).

*Some people are exempt from the self-isolation and travel restrictions. Please

visit www.gov.mb.ca/covid19/soe.html for more details.

For indoor visits, only one visitor may be allowed at a time. If two or more residents want a visitor on the same day, the visitors must come at different times.

For outdoor visits, up to two visitors may be allowed at a time. If two residents want outdoor visitors on the same day at the same time, there cannot be more than two visitors in total.

Since the risk of transmitting COVID-19 is less likely outdoors, CLDS encourages you to visit outside whenever possible.

You and your loved one must wash your hands before, during (when appropriate) and after any visit. It is also important that you maintain physical distancing (two meters or six feet) except for brief exchanges, whenever possible.

You and your loved one are not required to wear personal protective equipment (PPE) like masks during visits. You may wear a non-medical (i.e., cloth) mask during visits if you choose to do so.

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Your loved one may also visit you at your home or cabin, including overnight stays, if the home or cabin is located in Manitoba or northwestern Ontario.

However, they must answer the same screening questions when they return to their home to protect the health of other residents.

Returning to day services

CLDS is planning to gradually reopen day services starting July 1. We are working with our service provider agencies and with guidance from public health officials.

If your loved one has not been receiving “critical” day services, your community service worker (CSW) will be contacting your loved one’s day services provider to determine whether it would be safe for them to return to their day service on July 1 or shortly thereafter.

Service providers will be taking extra precautions to protect your loved one, especially if they are at greater risk of contracting COVID-19 or have pre-existing medical conditions that place them at greater risk.

Day services providers will be modifying their daily operations to follow public health guidance. This includes:

- limiting the number of people who can be at a day services facility;
- planning activities that allow people to maintain safe physical distancing;

- increasing cleaning and sanitization;
- changing facility entrances and exits to ensure one way traffic; and
- ensuring staff wear required PPE.

Your loved one will be asked to self-monitor for COVID-19 symptoms daily before attending their day service. If they start showing symptoms, they should not return to their day service until they receive a negative test for COVID-19 or after they self-isolate for 14 days.

Safe transportation services

When your loved one returns to their day service, it will be important for them to also have safe transportation. We are asking drivers to:

- ensure physical distancing to the greatest extent possible;
- practice hand hygiene; and
- disinfect vehicles regularly.

Going forward

More information about visitation, day services and transportation services will be available soon. If you have questions about these topics or your loved one’s service plan, please contact your CSW.

Visit www.manitoba.ca/covid19 for up-to-date and reliable information. We are committed to supporting you and providing the information you need during this challenging time.