

Key Messages from Residential and Group Care Webinar with Dr. Brent Roussin, Chief Provincial Public Health Officer

On September 8, 2020, a webinar was held for residential and group care providers in the child and family service and adult disability service sectors. Service providers had the opportunity to ask Dr. Brent Roussin questions related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

- COVID-19 is spread primarily by symptomatic people when they have close, prolonged contact with others. Close contact is generally considered to be more than 15 minutes and closer than two metres; this can vary depending on the activities taking place.
- **Practice the fundamentals:**
 - meticulous screening before staff attend work, using the COVID-19 screening questions available at:
https://www.gov.mb.ca/asset_library/en/coronavirus/covid19_screening_checklist.pdf
(If the screening tool advises you Not to Enter: stay home, isolate and call Health Links – Info Santé at 204-788-8200 or toll free at 1-888-315-9257 for further guidance.)
 - staff must stay home if they are ill, even with very mild symptoms
 - hand hygiene (washing hands with soap and water or use of an alcohol-based hand sanitizer for at least 20 seconds)
 - maintaining appropriate physical distancing (2 meters/ 6 feet) from others as much as possible
 - proper PPE use (as directed by the Department of Families)
- **If staff and/or residents are suspected or confirmed to have COVID-19, consult the checklist for your sector:**
 - [CFS Checklist for Suspect and Positive COVID-19 Cases](#)
 - [CLDS Checklist for Suspect and Positive COVID-19 Cases](#)
- If a resident/participant tests positive for COVID-19, Public Health will provide direction and will require that they isolate. Public Health can assist with determining the individual's self-isolation plan, including whether they can isolate within the home or at an alternate location, and when they can stop isolating. Public Health may also be able to assist problem solve.
- Public Health is responsible for starting an investigation within 24 hours of receiving a positive COVID-19 lab report. Following notification and interview of the COVID-19 case, Public Health will start contact tracing, and notify and provide direction to close contacts, including staff/residents/service providers as needed.
- If service providers have questions or concerns, they can connect with their regional Public Health office. Should the issue not be resolved at that level, they are encouraged to contact the Department of Families. The Department has a direct connection with Public Health and can assist with navigating urgent/complex issues.
 - Community Living disABILITY Services residential care providers should contact their regional program manager. If service providers have done so and continue to have urgent issues that require resolution, they may contact Andrea Thibault-McNeill (Acting Director, Legislation, Program and Policy Innovation, Adult Disability Services) at Andrea.Thibault-McNeill@gov.mb.ca.
 - CFS Community Care Providers (CCPs) must send an incident report to the CFS Branch, as per regulations, to the attention of the licensing specialist. If there are concerns not resolved at the licensing specialist level or that are regarding complex COVID-19 issues, CCP operators may contact Gord Henwood (Program Specialist) at Gord.Henwood@gov.mb.ca and Bobbie Whiteman (Manager of Placement Resources) at Bobbie.Whiteman@gov.mb.ca.