

**Department of Families**

Community Service Delivery  
Disability Programs and Specialized  
Services

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**Ministère des Familles**

Division de la prestation de services dans les communautés  
Programmes de soutien des personnes handicapées  
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July 14, 2020

To: Community Living disABILITY Services Day Services Providers

Dear Day Services Provider:

Thank you for your continued efforts to begin gradually phasing-in a safe reopening of day services.

On June 16, 2020, the Community Living disABILITY Services (CLDS) program distributed Phase One – Guidelines to Support the Gradual Reopening of Day Services. In these guidelines we advise that gloves, gowns and eye protection must be worn if a participant becomes ill or begins showing symptoms. This letter provides clarification on the use of gowns in the provision of facility day services.

Only two gowns will be included with day services providers' regular Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) order. Gowns should be used in the following scenarios only:

- the participant has symptoms associated with COVID-19 (i.e., cough, fever, runny nose, sore throat, weakness or headache) and is suspected to have COVID-19 or is COVID-19 positive and cannot self-isolate; or
- staff are required to provide direct care to a participant who has symptoms associated with COVID-19 and is suspected to have COVID-19 or is COVID-19 positive.

In any of these scenarios, arrangements should be made by staff to safely return the participant to their residential facility as soon as possible. Section 3.0 of the Guidelines for the Gradual Resumption of Transportation Services distributed on July 6<sup>th</sup>, contains information on safely transporting a symptomatic participant.

At this time, the transmission rates in Manitoba are extremely low and there is no need to wear gowns while providing care to participants with exception to the scenarios noted above. If gowns are used in accordance with the above noted circumstances, they will be replaced.

A number of measures to reduce the spread of COVID-19 were outlined in the Phase One – Guidelines to Support the Gradual Reopening of Day Services. These measures should continue to be followed and include: screening participants, promoting physical

distancing, practicing frequent hand hygiene, implementing enhanced cleaning and sanitization protocols, implementing administrative controls, using PPE provided by the Department of Families and assessing participant risk for attending day services.

Thank you for your commitment to ensuring the safe resumption of day services.

Sincerely,

Sandra Dorbolo  
A/Executive Director  
Disability Programs and Specialized Services