



## Health, Seniors and Active Living

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**To:** CFS Group Care and CLDS Residential Care Providers

Dear Care Provider,

Thank you for all of your work over the past several months. While this has been a difficult time for all Manitobans, Community Living disABILITY Services (CLDS) residential care and Child and Family Services (CFS) group care providers have faced unique challenges related to the COVID-19 pandemic. The health and safety of residents and staff is a priority for the Manitoba government.

Some residential and group care homes have already experienced COVID-19 first hand, with staff and/or residents testing positive for the virus. These situations, while unfortunate, have provided an opportunity to revisit the processes in place and the information service providers need in order to respond effectively.

### Procedures for Suspected/Confirmed Cases in Homes

Supports for adults with intellectual disabilities and for children and youth in care are critical services. In order to ensure the safety of staff and residents/participants, the guidelines and personal protective equipment (PPE) provided to your sector are based on current best practice and reflect the guidance provided to personal care homes.

To confirm, as with personal care homes, **staff in CFS and CLDS group and residential homes can continue to work in homes associated with positive cases as long as they are: (1) conducting pre-screening prior to their shift, (2) asymptomatic, (3) continuing to work using proper PPE, and (4) self-monitoring for symptoms on an ongoing basis.** This is subject to specific direction from public health officials.

### The Role of Public Health versus Health Links – Info Santé

Health Links – Info Santé (204-788-8200 or 1-888-315-9257) is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to provide general information related to COVID-19 and other health-related matters. However, as each situation is different, regional public health officials are best positioned to provide information and advice related to specific cases (for example, when a COVID-19 case has been identified within group/residential care home staff or residents). Regional public health officials conduct case investigations, contact tracing, and risk assessments, and can use this information to provide direction tailored to the situation.

## Prevention

Practicing the fundamentals is crucial to preventing the spread of COVID-19. For group and residential care staff, this includes:

- self-screening for symptoms before attending work each day, using the questions at [https://www.gov.mb.ca/asset\\_library/en/coronavirus/covid19\\_screening\\_checklist.pdf](https://www.gov.mb.ca/asset_library/en/coronavirus/covid19_screening_checklist.pdf) or the online assessment tool at <https://sharedhealthmb.ca/covid19/screening-tool/>
- staying home and not going to work when ill, even if your symptoms are very mild
- staying home and not going to work if you have been tested for COVID-19 and have not yet received the results
- washing/sanitizing your hands and covering your coughs and sneezes
- properly and consistently using PPE (as directed by the Department of Families)
- trying to stay 2 meters/6 feet from people from outside your own personal household (including while working), even when wearing PPE, to the extent possible and when safe for residents to do so
- implementing increased environmental cleaning/disinfection

N95 masks are not required when caring for residents, including residents who test positive for COVID-19. Medical-grade masks, such as those sent to service providers by the Department of Families, should be worn by staff working in group or residential care homes. As the medical community learns more about COVID-19 and practice evolves, public health will advise if there are particular circumstances that warrant the use of fit-tested N95 masks.

In closing, thank you again for your diligent efforts to prevent the spread of COVID-19. If you have any questions, we encourage you to contact your program specialist (for CLDS service providers) or licensing specialist (for CFS service providers).

Sincerely,



**Dr. Brent Roussin, MD, JD, MPH, FRCPC**  
Manitoba Chief Provincial Public Health Officer  
Manitoba Health, Seniors and Active Living

cc. Christina Moody, Acting Assistant Deputy Minister, Child and Youth Services  
Catherine Gates, Assistant Deputy Minister, Community Service Delivery