

DEPARTMENT OF FAMILIES CIRCULAR

Date: January 29, 2021

CIRCULAR NUMBER: COVID-19 2021-01r (*revised information is in bold*)

To: Early Learning and Child Care centres, nursery schools **and family/group child care homes**

Subject: Fast Pass rapid testing pilot program

Type: Policy

Procedure

Effective Date: Immediately – *revisions are effective February 1, 2021*

This circular is being revised to expand eligibility to all staff and providers working in licensed child care facilities in Winnipeg, and within the catchment areas of the Seine River and Hanover school divisions.

On January 14, 2021, the Manitoba government announced the new Fast Pass rapid testing pilot program. The pilot supports the timely diagnosis of COVID-19, earlier contact tracing and faster notifications in school and child care communities.

The pilot site is located at 1066 Nairn Avenue in Winnipeg. It uses a rapid test to provide same-day results for those who test positive. Currently, the pilot provides tests for staff who work in all Manitoba school divisions.

Starting February 1st, people who work at licensed child care facilities located in the city of Winnipeg, and Seine River and Hanover school divisions will be eligible for a Fast Pass appointment.

In order to access testing at the site, individuals must:

- work in a **licensed child care centre, nursery school or family/group child care home located in Winnipeg or in the Seine River and Hanover catchment areas.**
- be symptomatic, have been identified as a close contact as a result of an exposure at their child care facility/school, or have a symptomatic household member.
- book an appointment ahead of time by calling 1-855-268-4318; appointment bookings for eligible child care staff will be available starting **February 1, 2021.**
- show identification and proof of eligibility at the time of appointment (**the ELCC Program will provide a proof of employer letter template for eligible centre-based facilities and a form on government letterhead for eligible family/group child care homes to complete as proof of eligibility.**)

The site is open from 7:00 am to 3:00 pm daily, and operates alongside the drive-thru testing site at the same location. There is a dedicated entrance and appointment stream for rapid testing clients.

If evaluation results from the pilot site are positive, the Fast Pass program may be expanded to other areas of the province.

As a reminder, all Manitobans with symptoms are able to access the regular COVID-19 test; a list of locations and information on how to make an appointment can be found at:
<https://manitoba.ca/covid19/testing/locations.html>.

For more information see: <https://www.gov.mb.ca/covid19/testing/rapid-testing.html>.