

CIRCULAR

Date: September 25, 2020

CIRCULAR NUMBER: COVID-19: 2020-145

To: All Early Learning And Child Care (ELCC) Facilities

Subject: ELCC Practice Guide Update

Type: Information Only

Effective Date: September 25, 2020

The Chief Provincial Public Health Officer has endorsed changes to the attached ELCC Practice Guide September 2020, to reflect current guidance for keeping the ELCC sector safe and protected during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Updates from the June 2020 ELCC Practice Guide include:

- Recommended daily use of COVID-19 screening checklist:
https://www.gov.mb.ca/asset_library/en/coronavirus/covid19_screening_checklist.pdf
- Practicing public health fundamentals:
 - Hand washing time reduced from 20 seconds to 15 seconds;
 - Hand sanitizer may be used by children when supervised by an adult (aligns with Manitoba Education guidance);
 - Interactions with others in a public space (i.e., places of congestion such as entry/exit points) to a maximum of 15 minutes (rather than 10 minutes)
- Reducing isolation time to 10 days (from 14 days) from the time of symptom onset.
- Clarification of timelines for when symptomatic children and staff needs to stay away/and return to ELCC facility:
 - Test result is negative = can return 24 hours after symptoms resolve
 - No test = isolation period of 10 days and symptoms resolved before returning to ELCC facility
 - Test result is positive = Public Health will be in contact to provide advice. Public health typically follows up with contacts of cases within 24 to 48 hours.

- As part of Outbreak Management, as directed by Public Health, ELCC providers will send a letter to notify parents/guardians when there is a confirmed positive case of COVID-19 at an ELCC facility (aligns with Manitoba Education guidance).
- Guidance on exceptions from wearing masks on bus transport or while attending a child care facility. Parents/guardians are asked to provide written notification to their ELCC provider, specifying their child's specific limitation with wearing a mask.

ELCC providers are encouraged to visit the Department of Families COVID-19 Notices and Circulars page on a regular basis for specific ELCC sector updates. This is the same content as you will receive electronically from the Early Learning and Child Care Program. Visit: <https://www.gov.mb.ca/fs/covid-circulars.html>

Thank you for your continued cooperation,

Christina Moody, A/Assistant Deputy Minister
Children and Youth Services

Attach.