

**CIRCULAR**

**Date:** November 4, 2020

**CIRCULAR NUMBER:** COVID-19: 2020-174

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**To:** All Early Learning and Child Care (ELCC) Facilities and ELCC Program Staff

**Subject:** Planning for a Critical (Red) Level under the Pandemic Response System in Early Learning and Child Care Facilities

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**Type:**  Information Only

**Effective Date:** November 4, 2020

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The attached document, *Planning for a Critical (Red) Level under the Pandemic Response System in Early Learning and Child Care Facilities*, is being provided in an effort to support planning by child care facilities to prepare for a Critical (RED) response level being implemented in the child care sector. It is being sent for information only at this time, and it should be noted that **no decisions have been made to implement additional restrictions for child care facilities at this time**, beyond the requirement for centre staff across Manitoba to wear medical-grade masks (see updated circular 2020-173R, dated November 4, 2020).

Manitoba's [Pandemic Response System](#) sets out specific and focused public health responses on a provincial, regional, community, and business or sector basis that can scaled up or down depending on the risk of COVID-19 at that time. It informs Manitobans of the current level of risk, provides public health guidance to Manitobans and explains the range of measures in place to reduce the spread of COVID-19 in Manitoba.

The attached document is intended to provide a general overview of potential restrictions and actions that may be considered in a Critical (RED) response level for the child care sector. As previously communicated, child care facilities should regularly review public health orders for their respective region to be aware of any new requirements and how they apply to the child care sector. Specific directions will be provided by public health if/when implementation of this level of response occurs.

The Early Learning and Child Care Program continues to monitor and update resources related to COVID-19 and child care in Manitoba. For operational updates and directives, visit: [Manitoba Families COVID-19 Notices and Circulars](#).

The ongoing commitment of the child care sector to providing quality care, while also ensuring that precautions are taken to prevent the spread of COVID-19 is greatly appreciated. We would like to extend our sincere thanks for your efforts throughout this difficult time.

If you have any questions, please email [cdcinfo@gov.mb.ca](mailto:cdcinfo@gov.mb.ca) or call 204-945-0776 or 1-888-213-4754.

Thank you for your continued cooperation,

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

Attach.