

**CIRCULAR**

**Date:** August 27, 2020

**CIRCULAR NUMBER:** COVID-19: 2020-133

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**To:** ELCC Facilities in the Prairie Mountain Health Region

**Subject:** Update to Public Health direction re. mask use

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**Type:**  Procedure

**Effective Date:** Immediately

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In consultation with Dr. Roussin, Manitoba's Chief Provincial Public Health Officer, new direction has been issued for early learning and child care providers in the Prairie Mountain Health Region.

Effective immediately, mask use is mandatory for children ages nine and older while attending child care facilities, including home-based child care. Centre staff and home-based child care providers are required to wear masks while providing child care in this region.

Previous direction issued to child care providers in the region required mandatory mask use for children age five and older. Following further consideration by Public Health, it is recognized that sustained mask use by young children can be very difficult. To mitigate these concerns, and to better align with Manitoba's school reopening plan, it is now a requirement that children age nine and older wear masks in child care settings in the Prairie Mountain Health Region.

Dr. Roussin has also confirmed that child care providers can be encouraged to find opportunities when children who are nine or older can remove their masks while attending child care. Masks can be removed when indoors and physical distancing (2 meters or six feet) is in place, or when children are outdoors.

The continued dedication of the early learning and child care sector is greatly appreciated,

Sarah Thiele, Assistant Deputy Minister  
Children and Youth Services