

DEPARTMENT OF FAMILIES CIRCULAR

Date: October 1, 2021

CIRCULAR NUMBER: COVID-19 2021-54

To: All Early Learning and Child Care (ELCC) facilities

Subject: Changes to Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Distribution Process

Type: Policy

Procedure

Effective Date: Immediately

The Manitoba government is continuing to make medical-grade masks and eye protection available to ELCC facilities to further mitigate the risk of COVID-19 exposure and help safeguard the ability of ELCC facilities to remain open. However, a written request is now required to order more PPE for your ELCC facility. This change begins immediately for centres (including nursery schools) as well as family and group child care homes.

To order additional PPE, email your Child Care Coordinator with the following information:

- 1) Name of Facility
- 2) Facility ID Number(s)
- 3) Type(s) of PPE requested
- 4) Description of any requested changes to your PPE order

Please be sure to include "Facility name, Facility ID Number(s) and PPE Request" in the email subject line.

Please note:

- Monitoring your PPE supply is important to ensure continuity in your PPE supply.
- When submitting a request, allow a minimum of 2 weeks for additional PPE supplies to be ordered, shipped and packed for distribution.

Centres and Nursery Schools

- PPE supplies will continue to be picked up by centres (including nursery schools) at the designated provincial office for your facility, with the exception of some more remote facilities to which the supply will be mailed.

- The same number of masks included in your facility's last order will be provided unless you request an increase or decrease to the mask allocation.
- As the use of eye protection is optional, lenses for eye protection will only be provided when requested.
- Facilities will be notified by email, once a facility's PPE request is ready for pick up. Timely pick-up is required and appreciated as there is limited storage space at the provincial offices.
- Please remember that a staff member, board member, courier, parent, etc. may come pick up a facility's PPE package.

Family/group child care homes

- PPE supplies will be delivered to child care homes by department staff, with the exception of some more remote facilities to which the supply will be mailed.
- The same number of masks included in the supply delivered to your home in June 2021 will be provided, unless you request an increase or decrease to the mask allocation.
- As the use of eye protection is optional, lenses for eye protection will not be provided unless you specifically request them.

As a reminder, PPE use should always be combined with other protective measures, such as physical distancing, frequent hand hygiene, not touching ones' eyes, nose, or mouth, cough and sneeze etiquette and staying home when ill. In addition, staff/providers, children, parents and visitors to an ELCC facility must screen for COVID-19 symptoms and other COVID-19 related restrictions every day.

For the latest provincial public health information on COVID-19, visit: www.manitoba.ca/covid19.

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

We continue to appreciate the ongoing commitment of the ELCC sector to providing quality care, while also ensuring that precautions are taken to prevent the spread of COVID-19. 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 or call 204-945-0776 or 1-888-213-4754.

Thank you,
Early Learning and Child Care Program