

EARLY LEARNING AND CHILD CARE CIRCULAR

Date: December 20, 2023

CIRCULAR NUMBER: ELCC-2023-13

To: All licensed child care centres, nursery schools and family/group child care homes

Subject: Routine Practices: Guide to Creating a Healthy Environment and Preventing Infections within Child Care Facilities and Schools

Effective Date: December 20, 2023

Type:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Policy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> All Facilities	<input type="checkbox"/> Action Required
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Procedure	<input type="checkbox"/> Centres	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Only
	<input type="checkbox"/> Licensing	<input type="checkbox"/> Nursery Schools	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Financial	<input type="checkbox"/> Family/Group Homes	

To support healthy and safe environments, the department is releasing the document, ***Routine Practices: Guide to Creating a Healthy Environment and Preventing Infections within Child Care Facilities and Schools***. The document outlines routine practices and infection prevention and control measures to assist child care facilities and schools in reducing the transmission of infection.

Developed in collaboration with public health officials and stakeholders, the Routine Practices guide is designed to align policies and procedures across both child care facilities and schools. It replaces the previous document *Infection Control Guidelines for Early Learning and Child Care*.

Expanding on practices widely adopted during the COVID-19 pandemic, the guide contains information and tools to help manage and prevent the spread of infectious diseases, such as:

- How to reduce exposure and transmission of germs
- Ready-made supports that staff can use in the child care facility or school classroom
- Point of Care Assessment Tool
- Guidance on cleaning, sanitizing and disinfecting equipment and environment

Many preventive strategies are simple and effective, allowing staff to guard against a variety of potentially serious illnesses. Incorporating and teaching healthy routines and behaviours can help prevent the spread of infectious diseases including influenza (flu), respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), and COVID-19 in child care facilities and schools.

Where is the New Routine Practices Guidelines Available and How Can a Child Care Facility Access More Information?

The guide and additional resources are now available on Manitoba Education and Early Childhood [Routine Practices](#) website. To support staff, children and students, the website contains the following resources:

- Information Sheet – A summary of the key points from the ***Routine Practices: Guide to Creating a Healthy Environment and Preventing Infections within Child Care Facilities and Schools***.
- Video PowerPoint - A PowerPoint with narration to highlight elements of Routine Practices.
- Routine Practices tools, information materials and posters
 - All child care facilities will also be mailed a copy of each poster in January, 2024
- Additional Links – Information on common communicable diseases (e.g. seasonal influenza, COVID-19, gastroenteritis (stomach flu), etc.) and proper use of personal protective equipment.

Manitoba Education and Early Childhood Learning will continue to work in collaboration and partnership with all to ensure the health and safety of children, students and staff.

In addition to the resources noted above, for more information on the New Routine Practices Guide, please view the [FAQs](#) that will support child care facilities with answers to commonly asked questions.

Thank you for your continued engagement and collaboration, as we work together to create safe, positive and thriving learning environments.