

DEPARTMENT OF FAMILIES CIRCULAR

Date: May 26, 2021

CIRCULAR NUMBER: COVID-19 2020-145r(2) *revised information is in bold*

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

Subject: ELCC Practice Guide Update May 2021

Type: Policy

Procedure

Effective Date: Immediately

The Chief Provincial Public Health Officer has endorsed changes to the attached ELCC Practice Guide **May 2021**, to reflect current guidance for keeping the ELCC sector safe and protected during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Updates from the **September 2020** ELCC Practice Guide include:

- **Reducing “prolonged close contact” from 15 minutes to 10 minutes, in line with the current public health definition.**
- **Revising the section on Personal Protective Equipment, noting that:**
 - **staff in centres (including nursery schools) and home-based child care providers may also use eye protection to further mitigate the risk of being a close contact to confirmed case in the child care facility.**
- **Adding a section on medical-grade masks, noting that:**
 - **Medical-grade masks must be worn continuously by staff in centres (including nursery schools) and home-based providers when unable to consistently and reliably maintain 2 metres/6 feet of physical distance from children and other staff; and**
 - **If a child develops symptoms while at the facility, a medical mask should be provided to and worn by the sick child (> 2 years of age only).**
- **Updating information on mask and eye protection supply to note that medical-grade, disposable masks as well as frames and lenses for eye protection are being provided to child care centres, nursery schools and family/group child care homes by the Government of Manitoba.**

- Revising the “Documentation” section and Appendix A – COVID-19 Incident Reporting Form, noting that:
 - The ELCC Program should only be notified (using the form) after public health officials have been in contact with your facility regarding a positive COVID-19 case.
 - In addition to notifying the ELCC Program of confirmed cases among staff, children in your care or family members of staff/children in your care, home based providers must also notify the ELCC Program of any cases among other household residents.
 - Please note: If your facility closes prior to receiving direction to do so from public health, notify your Child Care Coordinator by phone or email as quickly as possible.

Further information around the distribution of medical-grade masks and eye protection will be distributed by email to all ELCC facilities in the near future.

COVID-19 variants of concern, which are more contagious and may result in a higher number of severe outcomes, are now present in Manitoba. As such, we would like to remind facilities to adhere to the fundamentals, and to reiterate the important role that families play in ensuring healthy child care environments. On a daily basis, parents/guardians should be asked to confirm that their child(ren) has no symptoms and is not otherwise required to self-isolate. Children who are exhibiting symptoms and/or are required to isolate should remain home and not attend child care. For further information, see page 4 of the attached ELCC Practice Guide.

Other resources include:

- COVID-19 screening checklist: https://www.gov.mb.ca/asset_library/en/coronavirus/covid19_screening_checklist.pdf
- List of symptoms: <https://www.gov.mb.ca/covid19/about/index.html>

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.

Attach.