

**CIRCULAR**

**Date:** November 26, 2020

**CIRCULAR NUMBER:** COVID-19: 2020-195

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**To:** Early Learning and Child Care facilities offering care for children of critical service providers

**Subject:** Prioritizing Critical Service Workers

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**Type:**  Policy

Procedure

**Effective Date:** Immediately

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The Early Learning and Child Care (ELCC) sector in Manitoba continues to provide quality care while making sure that public health guidelines are followed and precautions are taken to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

As Manitoba's Pandemic Response System scales up or down, essential or critical services such as important health and social services, education, first responders, along with essential retail, will remain running at all times.

In order to maintain critical services in Manitoba, it is vital that ELCC facilities prioritize access to available or vacant child care spaces for the children of critical services workers. The support that the sector has offered these families to date has been a key component in addressing the changing needs across the province, while ensuring essential and critical services continue to be available.

Please see below for a list of critical services workers with examples that has been included for easier reference.

As the child care sector has done an exceptional job of ensuring safe quality environments for children, **there are no plans to change cohort sizes at this time.** Facilities are reminded to continue to follow all of the protocols that are in place.

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: <https://www.gov.mb.ca/fs/covid-circulars.html>

Once again, thank you for all 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.

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

### **Critical Service Workers (CSWs):**

The Departments of Education and Families are using the same definition of critical service workers. Priority access will be given to health care providers.

Other critical service workers will be eligible and prioritized by child care facilities:

1. Health and health services
2. Child care workers (early childhood educators, child care assistants, centre administrators and support staff)
3. Kindergarten-to-Grade 12 education providers (teachers, administrators and support staff)
4. Law enforcement
5. Corrections workers
6. Fire and paramedic first responders
7. Direct social services and child protection workers

Child care facilities can then consider other CSWs who provide essential services to Manitobans. This may include those such as:

- front-line natural resource workers,
- gas station attendants,
- essential supply chain staff (e.g., truck drivers delivering food, medications and other essential goods; food industry staff working in food processing plants),
- grocery store staff, and

### **Examples of frontline “direct social services workers” that would be considered CSWs are:**

- Child and Youth Care Practitioners working in group/residential care settings
- Staff working in Child and Family Services (CFS) group homes
- Community Living disABILITY Services (CLDS) direct service workers
- CLDS and Children’s disABILITY Services (CDS) direct support providers and respite providers
- Community service workers, behavioral specialists, resource assistants and clinical professionals who support CFS, CLDS and CDS families and children
- Staff who process Child and Adult Abuse Registry Checks
- CLDS and CFS licensing specialists and provincial investigators
- StreetReach staff
- Adoption staff
- CFS Agency and Authority staff
- Child development and autism outreach staff
- Employment and Income Assistance (EIA) front-line staff