

CIRCULAR

Date: August 26, 2020

CIRCULAR NUMBER: COVID-19: 2020-131

To: Early Learning and Child Care Providers

Subject: Mask requirements

Type: Policy For Internal Reference Only
 Procedure
 Information Only

Effective Date: Immediately

Note: This circular does not apply to ELCC facilities in the Prairie Mountain Health Region, which is currently subject to a Public Health order pertaining to mask use.

As many early learning and child care providers are aware, Manitoba's plan for the return to school will require that children aged nine and older wear masks at school when physical distancing is not possible, including bus transportation. This plan comes into effect on September 8, 2020.

With the reopening of schools, the ELCC program will take steps to align with the education system on mask use for school-age children. This means that, as of September 8, children who are required to wear masks at school will also need to do the same while at child care.

Between now and September 8, children ages 9-12 are not required to wear masks in child care settings. On the advice of Dr. Roussin, Manitoba's Chief Provincial Public Health Officer, the Department of Families and ELCC facilities have worked hard to implement public health guidance to make sure that child care facilities are healthy places for children and staff.

It is important to keep in mind that the public health situation is rapidly evolving. The ELCC Program will continue to work closely with Public Health to ensure that guidance provided to child care facilities is in step with the provincial Public Health Orders and the advice of Public Health officials in Manitoba.

Please also note that additional information will follow regarding the implementation of provincial mask requirements in the ELCC sector.

Please join us this afternoon (Wednesday, August 26, 2020) for a Manitoba Child Care Sector – Information Session with Dr. Roussin, Manitoba’s Chief Provincial Public Health Officer, which will occur from 2:00 to 3:00 p.m.

To register, please click on the following link:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/5420397020917890575>

Thank you for your continued cooperation,

Sarah Thiele, Assistant Deputy Minister
Children and Youth Services