

September 3, 2020

To: Parents/Caregivers of children attending or returning to child care in Manitoba

Dear parents and caregivers,

Adjusting to living with the risk of COVID-19 in our communities is a challenge for us all. As you and your child(ren) continue to attend, or prepare for a return to child care, parents/caregivers and child care staff/providers all need to work together to help children adapt to new routines. It is important to ensure that your children stay home when they are sick. It is also important to teach them when and how to wash their hands correctly and how to cough or sneeze into a tissue or their sleeve. These are all important steps to help protect children and others, and reduce the spread of respiratory illnesses, including COVID-19.

The following are important principles that are key to ensuring that attending or returning to child care is as safe as possible:

- Children who are sick must stay at home, even if mildly ill or if you think their sickness is unrelated to COVID-19.
- Children who have [symptoms](#) of COVID-19 should stay home and isolate.
- Call Health Links – Info Santé for advice on testing for COVID-19 and information about when your child can stop isolating and return to child care.
- If testing is recommended, it is important to get tested as soon as possible to limit the spread of COVID-19.

Everyone is working to limit the spread of COVID-19 in Manitoba, but we will see cases linked to child care facilities. Be assured that public health investigations begin within 24 hours of a confirmed laboratory case. If there is a confirmed case of COVID-19 linked to your child(ren)'s child care facility, parents of children who may have been exposed will be contacted by public health officials and given instructions for self-isolation (quarantine); testing may be recommended. If you are not contacted by public health, your child(ren) were not deemed to be exposed from this case and no further action is required.

Please refer to COVID-19 Response in K-12 schools and Early Learning and Child Care Centres https://www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/covid/docs/covid_response_k-12_schools.pdf for detailed information on the notification process and public health response should there be a confirmed case of COVID-19 in your child's child care facility. A high level overview of the response communication is available at https://manitoba.ca/asset_library/en/covid/K12ResponseManagement.pdf

Sincerely,



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