

Why can home-based child care still be provided when other services are being paused?

- After consulting with the Chief Provincial Public Health Officer, home-based child care facilities do not need to pause or suspend services at this time.
- Home-based child care providers support a smaller number of children as compared to child care centres and schools, which lowers the risk.
- Existing regulatory requirements for child care already supports infection prevention and control.
- Providers should take precautions to avoid unnecessary physical contact.
- The situation will continue to be monitored and evaluated.

Am I at risk if I interact with children?

- We will continue to take advice from public health officials.
- You can continue to interact with children, but be sure to wash your hands frequently and practice good respiratory etiquette.
- If you or children in your care exhibit cold or flu-like symptoms, contact parents and advise that children with symptoms must be cared for at home.

It can be difficult to practice social distancing with children, especially when interacting with infants and very young children. How can I protect myself and others?

- Wash your hands frequently and establish frequent hand washing routines with the children.
- Follow updated information and advice provided at www.manitoba.ca/covid19.
- Monitor the children and yourself for cold or flu-like symptoms and separate children if they begin to exhibit symptoms while in your care. Contact parents immediately and ask that the child be cared for at home.
- Wash your hands thoroughly and/or use hand sanitizer after close contact with a child, such as a diaper change or consoling a child who is upset.

What happens if a child or a child's parent tests positive for COVID-19?

- Contact the Early Learning and Childcare Program immediately at 204-945-0776 or 1-888-213-4754 (toll-free) for assistance. Public health officials will be contacted to assess the matter and provide further direction to you and the affected families.
- The Early Learning and Child Care program will help you to ensure that all public health directives are followed, including communication to parents/guardians of other children in your home.

What can I do to protect myself?

- Wash your hands frequently.
- Follow updated information and advice provided at www.manitoba.ca/covid19.
- Practise social distancing when family members drop off and pick up children.
- Continue to interact with children, but divide them into smaller groups when possible.
- Help children practice good handwashing techniques.
- Notify parents immediately if a child exhibits cold or flu-like symptoms.

What should I consider as part of an infection prevention and control plan?

- Do NOT provide child care if you are feeling unwell (e.g., coughing, sneezing, fever, runny nose, etc.).
- Regularly practice handwashing with children in your care throughout the day and before and after activities such as arrival, eating and outdoor play.
- Provide alcohol-based hand cleansers in multiple locations in your home.
- Post signage encouraging proper cough etiquette and hand hygiene.
- Regularly clean areas and objects that are touched frequently, such as doorknobs, handles, and railings, with disinfectants.
- Provide boxes of tissues and encouraging their use.
- Remind children to avoid sharing cups, glasses, dishes or cutlery, and ensure these items are thoroughly cleaned using soap and warm water after each use, or placed in the dishwasher for cleaning.
- Keep groups of children smaller whenever possible, even for outdoor or other social activities.
- Increase the space between children at snacks, lunch and seated activities.
- Use social distancing techniques to conduct as much administrative business as possible, including telephone conferencing for meetings with parents and asking parents to remain outside when dropping off or picking up children.
- If symptoms develop in a child while at your home, ensure measures are in place to separate them from others while waiting for parents to arrive to remove the child.