

CIRCULAR

Date: March 20, 2020

CIRCULAR NUMBER: COVID#: 2020-12

To: Community Care Providers, CFS Agencies, CFS Authorities

Subject: Information Pertaining to COVID-19

Program(s): All

Type: Policy For Internal Reference Only
 Procedure Information Only

Effective Date Immediately

Topic: COVID-19 and Personal Protective Equipment

Access to Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for staff and agencies is a priority. A needs assessment has been completed by the province, including CFS agencies, Authorities and community care partners. The department is working with the Emergency Measures Office to procure needed items.

Staff providing essential services will be prioritized to receive PPE as it becomes available. Employees whose work or job duties may put them at increased risk, such as workers in residential care facilities, group homes and CFS agencies are advised to follow universal precautions and reference the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Practice Guidelines (**updated**) that were circulated on March 20, 2020.

Public health officials are not recommending the use of masks in public places, as there is no evidence that wearing masks significantly reduces the risk of getting the virus. An acute shortage of masks means that approved masks must be prioritized for use where they are needed most.

Good hand hygiene is known to provide significant protection from viral respiratory illnesses such as COVID-19. To reduce exposure COVID-19 and other illnesses, remember to:

- wash your hands often with soap and water, or use alcohol-based hand sanitizer;
- sneeze and cough into your sleeve;
- avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth;
- practice social distancing;
- keep your areas of work clean; and
- stay at home if you are sick.

Regularly updated information on COVID-19 can be found at www.manitoba.ca/covid19.

Sarah Thiele | Assistant Deputy Minister
Child and Family Services