

CIRCULAR

Date: April 6, 2020

CIRCULAR NUMBER: COVID-19: 2020-48

To: Child Care Centres, Home-Based Child Care Providers

Subject: **Cleaning Supplies and Personal Protective Equipment**

Program(s): All

Type: Policy For Internal Reference Only
 Procedure Information Only

Effective Date Immediately

Topic: Cleaning supplies and personal protective equipment

The Manitoba government understands the concerns associated with maintaining health and safety recommendations when access to necessary supplies are limited. This is why we are helping child care providers access personal protective equipment (PPE) and other supplies that have been difficult to obtain, such as:

- hand soap,
- toilet paper,
- bleach,
- gloves (to be worn in the event that a child or staff person becomes ill and when using bleach to disinfect surfaces), and
- masks (to be worn in the event that a child or staff person becomes ill).

Distribution will be based on the current supply available to the Manitoba government and the needs and current supply of each facility. Facilities must fill out the attached spreadsheet and list the current inventory of supplies on hand and indicate where there are critical shortages. The form is not an order form, but facilities should make note of any supplies that they cannot obtain and need to order.

As supplies become available, we will focus on facilities in critical situations where supplies are low and cannot be obtained from local retailers. All supplies will be provided free of charge and priority will be given to rural and northern areas where supply chains may not be as readily available as they are in Winnipeg.

Please note: We cannot guarantee all supplies as they are dependent on availability.

Completed forms should be sent to cdcinfo@gov.mb.ca, indicating "Supply Inventory" in the subject line.

Note that the form does not include hand sanitizer, because each facility has access to soap and water. Frequent handwashing for staff and children and disinfecting surfaces can help to reduce the spread of COVID-19 in child care programs.

Additional information related to ordering supplies from the department will be provided to facilities that identify critical shortages.

Thank you all for your continued patience as we work together to keep children, families and staff healthy.

Sincerely,
Early Learning and Child Care Program