



Department of Families

Community Service Delivery
Disability Programs and Specialized
Services

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Ministère des Familles

Division de la prestation de services dans les communautés
Programmes de soutien des personnes handicapées
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<http://www.manitoba.ca/index.fr.html>

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To All CLDS Agencies:

The arrival of COVID-19 in Manitoba and its impact on public services has been dynamic and evolving. I want to thank you for your professionalism and patience as we adapt to ensure the health and safety of our staff and the people we serve. Provincial health officials are working with national and international partners to monitor, gather information, assess risk and respond to the evolving COVID-19 pandemic.

In an effort to encourage the ongoing health, safety and well-being of CLDS participants, families and service provider personnel, the Department of Families strongly encourages all service providers to develop and/or update business continuity plans (BCPs) for their operations.

Business continuity planning can help ensure that service delivery to supported individuals can continue should COVID-19 result in the quarantining or self-isolation of employees or participants. Please find attached the Department's BCP risk assessment tool to guide the development and implementation of your plan. Service providers are also encouraged to work together to share BCPs to better prepare for potential service disruptions should COVID-19 infections occur.

Individuals experiencing symptoms similar to those associated with COVID-19 or suspecting they may have been exposed to the virus, are advised to contact Health Links at **204-788-8200** or toll free at **1-888-315-9257**. Health Links personnel will coordinate access to appropriate testing.

COVID-19 can spread through close contact with an infected person who is coughing or sneezing as well as by objects contaminated with the virus. Recommended prevention measures for common viruses such as seasonal influenza are also effective for COVID-19.

Prevention measures include:

- Washing your hands regularly with warm water and soap for at least 15 seconds. If soap and water are unavailable, and if your hands are not visibly dirty, an alcohol-based hand cleanser may be used.
- Covering your mouth and nose with a tissue when coughing and sneezing, or you can cough or sneeze into your sleeve.
- Avoiding close contact (within two metres/six feet) with anyone showing symptoms of a respiratory illness such as coughing or sneezing.
- **Staying home when you are sick, regardless of recent travel.**

For updates on COVID-19, please visit www.gov.mb.ca/health/coronavirus

Sincerely,

Sandra Dorbolo
Acting Executive Director
Disability Programs and Specialized Services

c. Honourable Heather Stefanson