

CIRCULAR

Date: May 27, 2020

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To: All licensed early learning and child care facilities – directors, boards, owner/operators, home based providers; Early Learning and Child Care Program staff

Subject: Child Care - Phase Two Re-opening Program(s): Early Learning and Child Care

Type: Policy For Internal Reference Only
 Procedure Information Only

Effective Date: June 1, 2020

Topic: Temporary Child Care Services – Phase Two Re-opening

Based on feedback from Manitobans and current public health data, the Manitoba government has finalized the Phase Two Plan for Restoring Safe Services. Effective June 1, new measures will be implemented that continue to safely restore services, open additional businesses, and continue physical distancing practices.

Under the Phase Two plan, licensed child care centres can open up to 24 spaces, plus staff, as of June 1. This may include more than one grouping of 24 children in a combination of separate rooms, provided that each has separate entrance/exits and groups will not be congregating in a larger common space. Child care homes will be allowed to continue providing care to the number of children for which they are licensed.

The Temporary Child Care Services site will continue to be used to allow child care facilities to advertise space availability, to support families who require child care and to support Manitoba's economic recovery. All families should continue to look for available child care spaces with the online search tool located at www.eswchildcare.ca. Please continue to regularly update your account in order to maintain an accurate number of spaces available for Manitoba families.

As a reminder to facilities, families who have already accessed a temporary child care space should not be displaced until regular child care services resume. Spaces that are currently vacant and those that are opened as part of the Phase Two Plan can be accessed by all Manitoba parents (i.e., they are not reserved for the critical services workforce).

The following information is intended to assist child care facilities preparing to open additional spaces as part of Phase Two of Restoring Safe Services:

1. Recalling Employees

Boards of directors and owner/operators of child care centres will want to plan how they recall employees to meet staff requirements for an increasing number of child care spaces. Centres will need to ensure regulations for staff ratios and the proportion of trained staff are met as they phase-in expanded services.

2. Health Protection

Facilities should communicate all current and expanded health prevention and protection measures to returning staff, as well as to new families accessing child care spaces. This includes having safety practices in place for children, families and staff, as well as guidance on the use of personal protective equipment (PPE) and the circumstances under which PPE should and should not be used.

3. Additional Information

Facilities are encouraged to have all returning staff review the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Early Learning and Child Care Practice Guidance manual and information circulars for child care, which can be access online at www.gov.mb.ca/covid19/infomanitobans/childcare.html.

Additional information on the plan for Phase Two of service restoration, steps people can take to reduce their risk, and workplace guidance for businesses can be found at: www.manitoba.ca/restoringsafeservices.

As plans continue to expand services in Manitoba, Early Learning and Child Care (ELCC) program staff will continue to be in contact with all facilities to support their re-opening or expansion efforts. The ELCC program will continue to inform all facilities of developments related to early learning and child care through the ongoing distribution of circulars and emails.

REMINDER: There will be a Town Hall with Dr. Brent Roussin, Chief Provincial Public Health Officer, on May 28, at 2:00 p.m. for the early learning and child care sector. Information will be provided to help facilities prepare to gradually and safely increase child care spaces and staffing. If you have not yet registered and would like to attend, please access this link: <https://attendeegotowebinar.com/register/4543973001870299147>.

Child care facilities and early childhood educators continue to be essential to Manitoba's COVID-19 response and critical to the staged re-opening of the provincial economy. Thank you for your cooperation as we work together to continue to support Manitoba families, children and communities during these challenging times.

ELCC Program