



**Department of Families**

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**Ministère des Familles**

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March 30, 2020

To All Child Care Facilities

**RE: COVID-19 Practice Guidance**

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to evolve, its effect on all of us is becoming more and more significant. While the Manitoba government announced the suspension of licensed child care facilities effective end-of-day March 20, 2020, some facilities will continue operations to ensure that dedicated child care spaces are available and prioritized for critical service providers. Home-based child care providers can also continue to operate. Protecting children and families to ensure their safety and well-being continues to be of paramount importance during this unprecedented time.

The safety and well-being of child care service providers is also of concern. The services you provide enable critical service providers to support Manitoba's COVID-19 response. The attached COVID-19 guidelines are effective immediately, and as this situation evolves, we will provide updated Practice and Policy Circulars.

The attached guidelines are current as of March 30, 2020 and the guidelines align with current Manitoba Public Health direction to prevent the transmission of COVID-19 and ensure that child care centres and providers have access to information that will guide their day-to-day practice.

I strongly encourage you to remain up-to-date on the public health direction available on the [Manitoba Government COVID-19](http://www.gov.mb.ca/covid-19) website. This guide is not intended to take the place of current public health advice.

If you have practice questions or concerns, please email [cdcinfo@gov.mb.ca](mailto:cdcinfo@gov.mb.ca) or call Manitoba Government Inquiry at 204-945-3744 or toll free 1-866-MANITOBA (1-866-626-4862).

Manitoba Families will continue to work closely with local public health officials and other partners to monitor, gather information, assess risk and respond as new information becomes available. Thank you for your continued efforts to reduce the spread of COVID-19, as we all work together to ensure the well-being of children, families and all Manitobans.

Sincerely,

*"Original Signed By"*

Sarah Thiele  
Assistant Deputy Minister  
Child and Youth Services Division  
Manitoba Families