

CIRCULAR

Date: July 13, 2020

CIRCULAR NUMBER: COVID-19: 2020-111

To: All licensed child care facilities, ELCC Program staff

Subject: **Weekly Calls to Child Care Facilities**

Type: Policy For Internal Reference Only
 Procedure Information Only

Effective Date: Immediately

Child Care Coordinators have been regularly contacting all child care facilities since the week of April 20 to gather information about the status of facilities during the provincial response to COVID-19, to inform future planning.

As of June 21, all child care facilities were able to begin safely moving to full, regular licensed capacity, as outlined in Phase 3 of *Restoring Safe Services: Manitoba Pandemic and Economic Roadmap for Recovery*.

The data that facilities provide to Child Care Coordinators during the weekly calls provides critical information about how Manitoba's early learning and child care system is managing restoring services for families, as well as potential changes in child care demand which could have a significant impact on the sector. It is also helping to identify barriers facilities face related to re-opening or expanding services and provides an indication of the types of child care arrangements families are choosing as Manitoba continues to re-open the economy.

To help facilities prepare for the weekly calls, the Early Learning and Child Care Program is now providing the questions you will be asked in advance. Facilities that have indicated they will not be re-opening prior to September 1, or that have expanded to reach full regular licensed capacity and are full, will have their information carried over and will be exempted from the weekly call list. Your assigned Child Care Coordinator will instead check-in every few weeks to inquire if any assistance is needed with your ongoing planning, programming and services. However, if your facility experiences a significant change to its enrolment or changes capacity to less than the regular licensed amount, please update the Temporary Child Care Search Tool at <https://eswchildcare.ca/Identity/Account/Manage> and contact your assigned Child Care Coordinator.

Facilities are encouraged to refer to the updated Coronavirus (COVID-19) Early Learning and Child Care Practice Guidance (June 2020) for information about safely restoring services while meeting the current public health directives at:

https://manitoba.ca/asset_library/en/covid/famcirculars/Covid-19_ELCC_Practice_Guide_-_UPDATED_June_2020.pdf

If you require further assistance with re-opening, or expanding services please contact your Child Care Coordinator.

Early Learning and Child Care Program