

**CIRCULAR**

**Date:** June 22, 2020

**CIRCULAR NUMBER:** COVID#: 2020-29

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**To:** CFS Authorities

**Subject: Information Pertaining to COVID-19**

**Program(s): Work with high-risk expectant parents - UPDATE**

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**Type:**  Policy  For Internal Reference Only  
 Procedure  Information Only

**Effective Date** Immediately

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**Topic: End of Birth Alerts, Effective July 1, 2020**

As of July 1, 2020, birth alerts will not be issued in Manitoba.

Over the last several months, authorities and agencies have worked together to transition to a new model of care, based on voluntary consent-based services, planning and referrals to appropriate community and health services, particularly public health.

A list of potential appropriate community resources for high risk expectant and new parents was distributed with the Circular COVID #2020-29, dated March 30, 2020. Please find attached additional materials on supporting new practice approaches for birth alerts in the CFS system:

- Updated Standards 1.2.2. (outlining the new voluntary model of care) and 1.3.1. (with birth alerts removed from child protection services);
- Frequently Asked Questions document for CFS;
- Information sheet on making a referral to Public Health;
- Information on how to enter the new model on the CFSA; and,
- A diagram showing the flow of working with a high risk expectant parent under the new practice model

I want to thank staff at the authorities and agencies for your ongoing efforts to transition to this new model, which included supporting health service providers who were also involved in the COVID-19 response. With your dedication and caring work, the number of birth alerts issued in Manitoba has already shown dramatic reductions.

Previous communication and guidance for agency staff about new protocols for COVID-19 remain in place. Staff should continue to follow directions about limiting exposure and follow the service practice guidelines distributed.

The most up to date information on COVID-19 can be found at [www.manitoba.ca/covid19](http://www.manitoba.ca/covid19)

Sarah Thiele  
Assistant Deputy Minister  
Child and Youth Services Division