

Continued Re-Opening of Child Care Services For Families

The draft plan for Phase Three of *Restoring Safe Services* to reopen the Manitoba economy is based on public health advice and consultation with key sectors.

Phase Three would increase the number of child care spaces to the regular licensed capacity of facilities, with guidelines in place, beginning on or after June 21. It is expected the temporary child care system will remain in place throughout this phase, but that families would need to go back to their regular child care arrangements, or make alternate arrangements, by August 31.

It is important to note that Phase 3 measures may be paused and previous measures may be re-introduced depending on direction from public health officials.

Frequently Asked Questions

Accessing care

How do I access child care if I'm returning to work now?

The Temporary Licensed Child Care Search website remains in place to match facilities with available spaces with families in need of child care. Continue to use the temporary child care website at <https://eswchildcare.ca/> to connect with child care facilities that have spaces available.

Beginning June 21, child care facilities can begin planning to safely increase capacity to their regular licensed level. All families planning to resume their regular child care arrangements in the coming weeks are encouraged to contact their centre or home-based provider to confirm their child care needs.

Families that enrolled in an alternate facility as part of the temporary system should be offered their original space/centre by their regular provider before the end of August.

Can I access child care for other reasons?

Any family requiring care can access the temporary system. This can include families requiring child care to support their employment search, training program attendance, or special needs of a parent/guardian or child.

If you need to access child care immediately, please use the temporary child care website at <https://eswchildcare.ca/> to connect with child care facilities with space available. This site will continue to be in place until further notice.

When should I expect to be contacted by my regular child care provider?

Beginning June 21, child care facilities can begin to safely increase to their regular, licensed levels. All families will be contacted before August 31 based on your child care provider's policies and their plans to resume service.

What if my regular child care centre does not call me before August 31?

Please contact your regular child care facility to discuss your child care needs and their timelines for your family's return.

Can I apply for subsidy?

Yes. The Child Care Subsidy Program provides provincial support to eligible families to help with the cost of care by reducing fees for children from the ages of 12 weeks to 12 years.

Your eligibility depends on various factors including:

- income,
- the number and age of your children,
- the number of days required for care, and
- the reason for care.

To determine eligibility please use the [Subsidy Eligibility Estimator](#) before filling out a subsidy application.

Transition from Temporary Child Care

My child/children are temporarily attending a different child care facility during COVID-19. When am I able to return to my regular child care centre?

Families who have accessed a child care space under the Temporary Child Care System will continue to have access to their temporary space until August 28. After this time, they will be required to return to their regular centre or find alternative care, so families can return to their pre-pandemic child care arrangements effective August 31.

Child care centres will be reaching out to their families to assist with these transitions. If your regular child care centre contacts you indicating they have a space available, you can work with them to determine an agreeable time for your family's return.

Now that facilities can increase capacity and plan with their regular families, will I get bumped from my temporary child care space? If I don't have a regular child care centre, what should I do?

Your child/children will not be displaced from your temporary arrangement before August 28.

Can I remain at my new child care provider if it is my preferred choice?

If you prefer to remain with your temporary child care provider moving forward, you will need to confirm that they have a space available for regular care.

If you have a regular space at another child care facility but choose not to return, you should ensure your withdrawal notice follows your child care facility's policies, and is submitted prior to August 31.

Safety

What precautions are in place to keep my children safe?

We are committed to continuing to support the sector during the safe restoration of regular services. The Department of Families continues to work with child care facilities and provide regular updates to the sector through circulars and a [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Early Learning and Child Care Practice Guidance](#).

All circulars are publicly available at:

<https://manitoba.ca/covid19/infomanitobans/famcirculars.html#elcc>

I don't feel safe sending my children back to child care at this time. Can I keep my space? Will I be charged to maintain my usual space?

To support sustainability and planning, child care facilities will provide existing families with a cut-off date to confirm their intentions for child care. This will ensure that facilities and families can plan for the full resumption of child care services by August 31.

Please contact your existing centre to confirm their policies on timelines for confirmation for continued interest, and the application of parent fees. Child care facilities can begin implementing regular policies on June 21.

Fees

If I remain out of work or can continue to work from home, will I still be charged by my usual child care centre?

Child care facilities can begin implementing regular policies as of June 21. Please contact your regular child care centre directly to confirm their policies and how they will apply as child care services are fully restored by August 31.

Feedback

Who can I contact with feedback about the Phase Three draft reopening plans?

All Manitobans are invited to provide feedback about the Phase Three through a survey at EngageMB at <https://engagemb.ca/phase-three-restoring-safe-services>.