

Continued Re-Opening of Child Care Services For Facilities

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

Transition from Temporary Child Care Services

When can I reopen more spaces?

Beginning on June 21, child care centres can open additional spaces to begin returning to their regular licensed capacity. Facilities will need to plan to recall staff and ensure equipment and supplies are in place to provide care as they slowly increase spaces.

When will regular child care services resume?

The target date for all facilities to be open to their full regularly-licensed capacity is August 31.

How are changes to licensing during temporary services affected as regular services are restored?

Changes to licenses will continue to be managed through extensions until regular child care services are officially unsuspended. The maximum group size of children within a room will now be based on the physical space available per child while meeting public health requirements. Specific questions about your facility's space ability to accommodate increases should be directed to your assigned child care coordinator.

Can nursery schools resume regular operations?

Nursery schools that have opened to offer full-time child care as part of the temporary child care service can continue providing this service through the end of August and can increase their spaces to the maximum their physical space will allow, provided that they continue to follow existing public health directives. Information about re-opening of nursery school programming will be forthcoming in the near future.

What happens to children with temporary child care spaces?

Families who have used the temporary child care program will continue to have access to this space until August 31. At that time, they must return to their regular space or find alternative care.

Facilities are encouraged to notify or remind families with temporary child care spaces that their child will be withdrawn from your program when regular services are restored. Notice should be given to families well in advance.

Families who need child care after regular services resume can return to their original facility (if applicable). Families should be encouraged to contact their previous provider to make arrangements to transition their child back.

Families who continue to need child care but who did not have a previous child care space can seek child care using the Temporary Licensed Child Care Services website at <https://eswchildcare.ca/>.

What do we tell families with regular child care spaces?

Families can be notified that regular child care services will be reopening, and that regular fees will be reinstated once spaces become available for their child. Families should only be charged parent fees when spaces are open and available for their child to return to child care.

To support sustainability and planning, child care facilities can provide existing families with a cut-off date to confirm their intentions for child care. Families wishing to permanently withdraw from your facility should follow your facility's withdrawal policies.

How should we fill new vacancies?

During the ongoing restoration of services in Manitoba, facilities should continue updating their vacancies on the temporary child care website at <https://eswchildcare.ca/>.

Parent Fees

Am I allowed to charge parent fees for services even if a child is not attending?

When open spaces become available for regular/returning families, child care facilities can resume their regular policies around parent fees. If a family has confirmed that they wish to maintain their regular child care space when it is available, the family can be required to pay their parent fees as per the facilities regular policies - even if they choose to not immediately send their child to the facility.

Health and Safety

As services expand, what are the guidelines for child care facilities to protect the health of children, families and staff in child care?

Through consultation with public health officials and key providers, guidelines are being revised to address the increased group sizes at child care facilities. These will be shared with you as soon as possible. As facilities reopen more spaces, they must ensure measures can be taken to comply with the revised guidelines.

Inclusion Support Program

Will my previous ISP approval be reinstated when regular services resume for those children approved for ISP before temporary child care services began?

As facilities move towards full licensed capacity, they should be prepared to submit new service plans for children with additional support needs who are eligible for the Inclusion Support Program. It is possible that child care services will not immediately be the same as they were before temporary child care services began as there may be changes to staffing, enrollment numbers, procedures, etc.

Facilities will need to submit a new service plan that takes into consideration the capacity of the centre at the time the child with additional support needs is enrolled or re-enrolled.

Please discuss your Inclusion Support Program needs with your child care coordinator to ensure the proper documents are in place for children with additional support needs.

Additional Information

When will I receive more information?

The department is committed to supporting the sector during the safe restoration of regular child care services by providing accurate and up-to-date information.

The Department of Families will continue to provide regular updates to child care facilities through circulars and the [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Early Learning and Child Care Practice Guidance](#).

Updated information and the ELCC Practice Guide will continue to be available online at <https://manitoba.ca/covid19/infomanitobans/childcare.html>.

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>.