

Referrals from CFS to Public Health

How to make the referral

Public Health Offices accept referrals for pre and post natal supports from CFS workers. Expectant parents must be aware and consent to the referral.

Referrals to public health can be made by phone, as well as by sending the completed form found at this link to the local public health office.

www.gov.mb.ca/health/publichealth/phnursingstandards/docs/Prenatal_Care_Referral_Form_tk102_ACCESS.pdf

Contact information for Manitoba Public Health Offices is available at:

www.gov.mb.ca/health/publichealth/offices

What services can Public Health provide?

Public Health Nurses provide important supports to high risk parents. They deliver pre- and post- natal supports, such as connecting with community services, and intake for the Families First home visitation program, shown to improve family outcomes and increase the likelihood of children remaining in the care of their parents.

The provincial guidelines for Public Health Nurses prenatal assessments are:

- Complete a public health nursing prenatal assessment, (in person or by telephone), within two weeks of receipt of prenatal referral or before estimated date of confinement (EDC) if late in pregnancy.
- Determine the need, timing and most appropriate type of public health nursing follow-up based on assessment, with priority “in person” follow up for disadvantaged clients.
- Provide public health nursing case management for disadvantaged families.
- Refer acute clinical issues to appropriate professionals and resources (ex: primary care, acute care, mental health).
- Collaborate with health and social service providers (ex: midwifery, physicians, child and family services, economic assistance) to support ongoing case management of disadvantaged families.
- Facilitate access and referrals to community based programs (ex: prenatal education, Healthy Baby).
- Collaborate with community, health, and social partners to seek out disadvantaged prenatal families for whom referrals may not be received.

Note: Agencies providing services to families living in First Nations will work with on reserve health care providers (frequently the Nursing Station) and programs (such as Strengthening Families)