

CIRCULAR

Date: March 24, 2020

CIRCULAR NUMBER: COVID-19: 2020-23

To: Early Learning and Child Care Centres/licensed home-based child care providers offering care for children of critical service providers

Subject: **Providing care for children of essential services workers**

Program(s): All

Type: Policy For Internal Reference Only
 Procedure Information Only

Effective Date Immediately

To maintain critical services, access to available spaces will be given to Manitobans who provide critical services and who cannot find alternate child care arrangements.

The Early Learning and Child Care (ELCC) Program will connect critical service providers with child care centres that will continue to provide child care to a maximum of 16 children during this period.

Priority access will be given to health care providers. Other critical service providers will be eligible and will be prioritized:

1. Corrections Workers
2. Law Enforcement
3. Fire and Paramedic Responders
4. Direct Social Services and Child Protection Workers
5. Emergency/Critical Service Providers

Emergency/Critical Service Providers may include people who provide essential services to Manitobans such as gas station attendants, grocery store staff, and hospital/clinic support staff, such as cleaners. Manitoba is matching families of critical services workers to child care providers who have indicated they are remaining open.

If you have a family identifying as a critical services worker already enrolled in your centre, there is nothing more that needs to be completed. If you have a new family that wants to enroll as a critical service worker, please advise them to complete:

<https://forms.gov.mb.ca/GoMCovid19ESW/>

Spaces will be prioritized, with priority access given to health care providers. Space allocation will be determined for all other critical service providers on a case-by-case basis.

Visit <https://manitoba.ca/covid19/infomanitobans/index.html> for the most up to date public health information and other resources.

We thank you for your commitment to supporting Manitobans during this emergency.

Early Learning and Child Care Program