

CIRCULAR

Date: January 28, 2021

CIRCULAR NUMBER: COVID-19 2020-172(r)

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To: **Community Living disABILITY Services (CLDS) Staff and Service Providers**

Subject: Restrictions for CLDS in Regions Designated as Red (Critical) - Revised

Replaces: COVID-19 2020-103 - Visitation Restrictions Eased for CLDS Participants Living in Residential Care Facilities

**COVID-19 2020-211 - Criteria for Reviewing Requests to Allow CLDS Participants to Visit Family Homes**

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Type:  Policy

Procedure

Effective Date: **January 23, 2021**

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*Revised information is in bold*

The chief provincial public health officer set the #RestartMB Pandemic Response System level to Critical (red) for all of Manitoba, effective November 12, 2020. **While Manitoba remains in Critical (red), new public health orders regarding visitation came into effect on January 23, 2021. Separate orders are in effect for northern Manitoba.**

**This circular outlines the visitation restrictions that are in place for Community Living disABILITY Services (CLDS) participants in accordance with the new public health orders. Additional precautions remain in place for residential care facilities, day services facilities and community-based recreation and leisure activities.**

Day Services

CLDS day services will only be offered at this time if they are considered critical. This approach will remain in effect until further notice. See the previously-distributed circular, *COVID #2020-87 Critical Day Services Approach Remains in Effect*, for more information on other daytime support options.

### Critical need

To ensure the continued safety and well-being of CLDS participants and agency staff, and to help curb the spread of COVID-19, day services may continue only in situations where there is a critical need. This includes:

- participants living with family members who are at risk of losing employment if day services are not provided and do not have other daytime options;
- participants supported by home share providers who are unable to provide care during daytime hours, and where other arrangements are not possible;
- participants who cannot be safely supported in their residence during daytime hours;
- participants whose mental health has been significantly impacted by the pandemic and require access to day services to maintain their mental health; or
- participants who receive supported employment and are at risk of losing their employment if supports are not provided.

### Access to Critical Day Services with COVID-19 Case(s) or Suspected COVID-19 Case(s)

If a CLDS participant or staff member attending a day service becomes a COVID-19 case or a suspected COVID-19 case, the day service will be suspended until a negative COVID-19 test result is confirmed. If the person tests positive for COVID-19, the day service will be suspended until direction is provided by the Department of Families regarding a safe reopening. CLDS participants or staff who are self-isolating because another member of their household is symptomatic must not attend or work, pending COVID-19 test results.

**Note: Refer to Circular 2020-178 for residential staff self-isolation requirements.**

### Access to Community-Based Recreation and Leisure Activities

All non-critical, community-based recreation and leisure activities are suspended until further notice. Low risk activities, such as going outside for a walk, may continue for CLDS participants (or anyone in their household) who are not a COVID-19 case or suspected COVID-19 case.

### Out-of-Home Visitation

The following out-of-home visitation restrictions apply to CLDS participants, regardless of their living situation, in all regions except northern Manitoba:

- CLDS participants can visit inside the home of a friend or family member if everyone in the friend or family member's home has identified the participant as one of the home's two authorized visitors. If the CLDS participant requires a support staff to accompany them during the visit, the staff does not need to be counted as one of the home's two authorized visitors.
- Authorized visitors cannot be changed throughout the duration of the public health order.

- CLDS participants can attend a gathering of up to five people outside the home of a friend or family member. Residents of the home are not included in the count. If the CLDS participant requires a support staff to accompany them at the gathering, the staff is not included in the count.
- CLDS participants can attend a gathering at an outdoor place (other than at the home of a friend or family member) or at an indoor public place or the common areas of a multi-unit residence of up to five people. If the CLDS participant requires a support staff to accompany them during the gathering, the staff is included in the count of the number of people at the gathering as the rule is different for public places as opposed to private residences.

The following out-of-home visitation restrictions apply to CLDS participants, regardless of their living situation, in northern Manitoba:

- CLDS participants can visit the home (inside or outside) of a friend or family member they regularly interact with if the friend or family member lives alone. A support staff can accompany the CLDS participant during the visit.
- CLDS participants can attend a gathering of up to five people at an indoor or outdoor public place or in the common areas of a multi-unit residence. If the CLDS participant requires a support staff to accompany them during the gathering, the staff is included in the number of people at the gathering.

### Visits to CLDS Participant Homes

The following visitation restrictions to CLDS participant homes apply to those who do not reside in residential care facilities, in all regions except northern Manitoba:

- CLDS participants may authorize up to two people who regularly interact with the participant to visit inside their home if all of the residents have authorized those persons to attend.
- Authorized visitors cannot be changed throughout the duration of the public health order.
- Up to five people may visit a CLDS participant outside their home. Note that residents of the home are not included in the count of the number of people.

The following visitation restrictions to CLDS participant homes apply to those who do not reside in residential care facilities, in northern Manitoba:

- CLDS participants who live alone may have one friend or family member they regularly interact with visit their home (inside or outside).

### Visits to Residential Care Facilities

Residential care facilities are not considered private residences for the purposes of the public health orders. Given this, additional precautions remain in place for visits

**to residential care facilities.** A “designated visitor” is any person the resident and/or their substitute decision maker chooses as a person who may visit the resident **inside** their residential care facility. This may include a family member, friend, advocate or someone in the resident’s support network. It does **not** include service providers, such as community service workers, respite providers, direct support providers or direct service workers.

**The following visitation restrictions apply to visits to residential care facilities in all regions except northern Manitoba:**

- Each resident may authorize **up to two** designated visitors to visit **inside** the facility. Both designated visitors may visit inside the facility at the same time. However, the total number of visitors inside the facility must not exceed two at any time.
- **Up to five** people may visit **outside** a facility at a time. These people do not need to be a resident’s designated visitor. Note that residents and support staff are not included in the count.
- The total number of visitors to a facility must not exceed seven (two inside and five outside) at any time.

**The following visitation restrictions apply to visits to residential care facilities in northern Manitoba:**

- Each resident may authorize **up to two** designated visitors that can visit **inside** the facility. However, **only one** of the designated visitors may visit inside the facility at a time. The total number of visitors inside the facility must not exceed one at any time.
- **Up to two** people may visit **outside** a residential care facility at a time. These people do not need to be a resident’s designated visitor. Note that residents and support staff are not included in the count.
- The total number of visitors to a facility must not exceed three (one inside and two outside) at any time.

**The following visitation requirements apply to all visits to residential care facilities:**

- For visits **inside** a shift-staffed home, designated visitors must comply with the same personal protective equipment (PPE) requirements as the staff working in the home. In general, this means a medical mask and protective eyewear. If the visitor does not have access to this type of PPE, the facility will be asked to provide it. The department will then increase the PPE supply to the service provider. As PPE is not provided to home shares, the visitor must bring and wear their own mask. A cloth mask is acceptable.
- For visits **outside** a residential care facility, visitors are encouraged to wear a mask during the visit. Cloth masks are acceptable. The facility is not required

**to provide a mask to visitors for an outdoor visit. If the facility chooses to do so, the department will not increase the supply of masks for that purposes.**

**Facility operators or staff are responsible for determining visiting hours and the duration of visits. While facilities can have indoor and outdoor visitors at the same time, operators and staff are encouraged to stagger visitation where possible.**

Facility operators and staff must continue to screen visitors prior to each visit (**refer to [https://manitoba.ca/asset\\_library/en/coronavirus/covid19\\_screening\\_checklist.pdf](https://manitoba.ca/asset_library/en/coronavirus/covid19_screening_checklist.pdf)) and maintain a log of all individuals who have visited the facility.**

Family members, friends and support network members are encouraged to connect with residents by telephone, social media or virtually to minimize in-person visits.

Visitation to Residential Care Facilities with COVID-19 Case(s) or Suspected COVID-19 Case(s)

- Visits are suspended, unless critical to the participant's well-being.
- Indoor and outdoor visits may be considered in exceptional circumstances on a case-by-case basis with the appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) supplied to the service provider by the department and with all necessary precautions implemented.

If you have any questions, please contact your regional program manager or regular contact at Centralized Services and Resources.

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