

**CIRCULAR**

**Date:** September 17, 2020

**CIRCULAR NUMBER:** COVID-19: 2020-143

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**To:** Early Learning and Child Care Sector

**Subject:** Mask distribution for ELCC facilities

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**Type:**  Information Only

**Effective Date:** Immediately

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The Early Learning and Child Care (ELCC) Program is pleased to advise that the Government of Manitoba will be providing ELCC facilities with a supply of reusable masks for staff/child care providers and children (grades four and up) who attend a child care facility without their own mask.

To align with the Department of Education, and to ensure that no child (grade four and up) is turned away from child care due to attending without a mask, the following will be distributed to facilities:

- 2 reusable masks per employee
- A supply of reusable masks for children (grade four and up) who attend a child care facility without their own mask

Close to 23,000 masks for child care providers and 26,000 masks for children (grade four and up) will be distributed. Note that the masks being provided for children are to be distributed only in the event that a child attends a facility without their own mask. The child care facility should remind parents/guardians that they have a responsibility to ensure that they provide masks for their child for the purpose of attending child care.

We would also like to remind child care providers that information related to proper mask usage is available online at <https://www.gov.mb.ca/fs/covid-circulars.html#elcc> (see in particular the circular sent to the sector on September 4 related to mask use).

Child care providers are invited to share the following resources with parents/guardians:

- Mask Guidance for K-12:  
[https://www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/covid/docs/mask\\_guidance.pdf](https://www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/covid/docs/mask_guidance.pdf)

- Video – Helping parents and children put on and take off masks properly  
<https://youtu.be/eGhLwmFRyZY>
- Parent/Guardian and Educator Frequently Asked Questions and Answers:  
[https://www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/covid/docs/qa\\_welcome\\_back\\_combined.pdf](https://www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/covid/docs/qa_welcome_back_combined.pdf)

These reusable masks should be washed in the hot cycle of the washing machine, dried thoroughly, and stored in a clean bag/container. Masks should be washed between use. Once a mask has been given to an individual, it should be worn only by that individual.

Please note that it will take some time for your facility to receive your mask shipment. In the interim, please continue to following the guidance provided in the September 4 circular regarding mask use when children (grade four and up) attend your facility without their own mask.

We appreciate your patience while the department procures and packages masks for distribution. It is anticipated that masks will be sent via mail later next week.

If you have not received your mask shipment by Friday, October 16, please contact the ELCC program by emailing [cdcinfo@gov.mb.ca](mailto:cdcinfo@gov.mb.ca).

Tina Moody, A/Assistant Deputy Minister  
Child and Youth Services Division  
Early Learning and Child Care Program