

CIRCULAR

Date: December 2, 2020

CIRCULAR NUMBER: COVID-19: 2020-202

To: Early Learning and Child Care Facilities

Subject: Child Care Subsidy Program – Attendance and Funding

Type: Policy

Procedure

Effective Date: Immediately

As per circular 2020-119 “Subsidy Orientations, Subsidy Funding and Attendance Reporting - Updates”, the subsidy program will continue to waive all days that subsidized children are absent as a result of the pandemic. This measure has been put in place so families and providers are not negatively impacted when children are unable to attend due to the current precautions put in place as part of the COVID-19 response.

Examples of situations where absent days would be waived include:

- child is ill
- child is suspected to have or has been diagnosed with COVID-19 (may be symptomatic or without symptoms)
- child is a close contact of a COVID-19 case and must isolate
- public health directs the closure of the child care facility, or a particular cohort
- a school-age child is learning remotely, due to public health direction (e.g., to close the school or have a cohort learn from home)
- a member of the child’s household has COVID-19 symptoms and/or has been diagnosed with COVID-19, so the entire household must isolate

The waiving of allowable absent days is for COVID-related issues tied to illness or public health direction, including the need to self-isolate.

In situations where the absence is a result of a personal family decision, the Child Care Subsidy Program will not cover subsidy to hold the space. For example, if parents/guardians make a personal choice to have their child not attend child care temporarily while the parent/guardian is working from home, have made a decision to

homeschool or have set up a remote learning environment, absent days would not be waived. Similarly, if parents/guardians make a personal choice to have their school-age child learn from home, even though their school is still open, and requests the child attend full-time, child care subsidy would not be paid for a full day.

Under Manitoba's Child Care Regulation, subsections 40(6) and section 44, exceptions may be considered on a case-by-case basis. We encourage facilities to contact the subsidy program by calling 204-945-8195, toll-free 1-877-587-6224, or email cdcsubsidy@gov.mb.ca with any questions or to discuss exceptional situations.

Child Care Subsidy Program
Early Learning and Child Care Program