

Child Care Subsidy Program

Allowable Absent Days

Frequently Asked Questions

February 2024

1. What is the Allowable Absent Days Policy for families receiving child care subsidy?

When a family is eligible for child care subsidy, they are notified of their approval with a letter that indicates their approval period (the start and end date of the approval). To ensure that child care spaces are being used for the reason for care provided by the applicant, the child is required to attend the facility and is allowed a maximum number of days they can be absent for which subsidy will be paid.

[Child Care Regulation 62/86 subsection 42\(2\)](#) outlines that a subsidy may be paid for the total number of days within the approval period, including the days of non-attendance when a child is in attendance for 85 per cent or more of the days within the approval period.

For example, if a child is approved for five full days per week for six 28-day reporting periods, the total number of possible days of attendance is 120 days. The allowable absent days for this approval period would be 18 (15 per cent of 120 days).

2. What if there is a good reason for going over my allowable absent days? For example, what if my child has an extended illness or another exceptional situation?

Exceptional circumstances may arise when subsidy payment will be allowed for absent days after the allowable limit has been reached. For example, consideration may be given when absences occur due a medical condition or an accident. Families are encouraged to discuss exceptional circumstances with the Subsidy Program to be considered for additional allowable absent days.

3. I was approved for child care subsidy twice in the last couple of years. Why do I not know about the Allowable Absent Days Policy?

During the pandemic, the Allowable Absent Days Policy was waived to ease attendance requirements during pandemic restrictions. When the allowable absent days requirement was waived, reference to the maximum number of allowable absent days was removed from subsidy approval letters.

Beginning on **March 31, 2024**, the Allowable Absent Days Policy will be reimplemented and the maximum number of allowable absent days will once again be indicated on subsidy approval letters.

4. How do I know how many absent days I am allowed?

For the number of absent days that you are allowed and/or have used during your subsidy approval period, please contact the Child Care Subsidy Program at cdcsubsidy@gov.mb.ca, 204-945-8195 or 1-877-587-6224(toll-free).

Your child care facility may also be able to tell you how many absent days you have remaining in the approval period.

5. What happens if I use more than my allowable absent days?

a) For subsidy applications approved before March 31, 2024:

The Child Care Subsidy Program will monitor attendance and contact families if there are excessive absences regarding their ongoing need for child care.

b) For subsidy applications approved on or after March 31, 2024:

The number of allowable absent days for each child for the approval period will be indicated on the approval letter sent to the family and the facility. If the allowable absent days are exceeded within the approval period, families are responsible for paying the full parent fees for any additional absent days. Child care subsidy will be paid ONLY for days that the child was in attendance until the end of the subsidy approval period.

6. Who do I contact if I have additional questions about my subsidy allowable absent days or paying my portion of my child care fees?

For questions about allowable absent days, families receiving child care subsidy can contact the Child Care Subsidy Program at cdcsubsidy@gov.mb.ca, 204-945-8195 or 1-877-587-6224(toll-free).