

DEPARTMENT OF FAMILIES CIRCULAR

Date: January 13, 2021

CIRCULAR NUMBER: COVID-19 2020-212r (revisions are in bold)

To: Community Living disABILITY Services Staff and Service Providers, Child and Family Services group home providers/operators, and Emergency Placement, Family Violence and Homeless Shelter Providers

Subject: COVID-19 Vaccine Priority Criteria - Health Care Workers

Type: Policy

Procedure

Effective Date: Immediately

Manitoba's first COVID-19 immunization clinic launched on December 16, 2020 and prioritized certain health care workers. **As supplies of the vaccine have increased, the province has gradually expanded the eligibility criteria to help protect more frontline workers and those most at risk of serious illness from the virus.**

On January 13, 2021, eligibility criteria was expanded to include staff who provide direct care to individuals in the following congregate care settings:

- **Community Living disABILITY Services (CLDS)**
- **Child and Family Services (CFS)**
- **Family violence shelters**
- **Homeless shelters**

These settings were prioritized as clients may remain there after developing COVID-19 symptoms or testing positive, and staff continue to be responsible for their care. As well, a significant number of these facilities have experienced critical staff shortages due to staff illness and the need to self-isolate.

Not every person in these categories will become eligible to be immunized at the same time. Eligibility will continue to be set by age brackets. Also, some health care workers, including those working in critical care, will continue to be prioritized before others within these broad categories to ensure care and service in this part of the system.

Right now, there is a limited supply of vaccine in Canada and worldwide. Vaccine supply is expected to increase as more vaccines are developed, approved and distributed. As supply increases, the eligibility criteria for the COVID-19 vaccine will be updated. There will be enough vaccine for every Manitoban.

Appointments and Bookings

The Department of Families has a dedicated system in place for booking appointments for staff in CLDS, CFS, family violence and homeless shelters. The department will work directly with agencies to identify eligible staff, and then will contact staff directly to schedule appointments.

Please do not call the appointment line for health care workers to book an appointment.

For more information on Manitoba's immunization program, including information about the vaccine and immunization clinics, please visit: www.manitoba.ca/vaccine.

cc: Distribution List