

DEPARTMENT OF FAMILIES CIRCULAR

**Date:** February 8, 2021

**CIRCULAR NUMBER:** COVID-19 2021-07

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**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 Scheduling – Priority Staff in Congregate Facilities

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**Type:**  Policy

Procedure

**Effective Date:** Immediately

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The province continues to expand the eligibility criteria for vaccinations to help protect more frontline workers and those most at risk of serious illness from COVID-19.

Eligibility criteria has been extended to frontline staff providing direct care in the following congregate care settings:

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

Appointments and Bookings

The Department of Families will begin contacting staff to book vaccine appointments shortly. The department has a dedicated system in place for booking appointments for staff in CLDS, CFS, family violence and homeless shelters.

The department has worked directly with agencies to identify eligible staff, and will contact each of the 8,000 staff directly, by phone, to schedule an appointment. Staff will be prioritized based on their age.

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

Note: there is no cost for the COVID-19 vaccine in Manitoba. You will not be required to provide banking or financial information.

Vaccine Priority:

Staff working in these congregate settings are prioritized as residents 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.

As more vaccine is delivered to Manitoba, priority will be extended to other groups. For more information on Manitoba's immunization program, including information about the vaccine and immunization clinics, please visit: [www.manitoba.ca/vaccine](http://www.manitoba.ca/vaccine).

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