



COMMUNICATION

Issue: Critical (Red) Response – Children of Critical Services Workers

This bulletin provides further clarification on the circular COVID19: 2020-004, distributed on October 27, 2020, regarding Critical (Red) Response Guidance for Manitoba Schools.

Critical (Red) Response Level

- During a Critical (Red) level, schools/school divisions are to accommodate only those students who are the children of critical services workers (CSWs) in Kindergarten to Grade 6 (or higher than Grade 6 if they have special needs that preclude them from staying home independently), or other students who are deemed to be at high risk. Schools may not remain open for all students even if two metres of physical distancing can be maintained.

Transportation

Recognizing that busing may be the only way to get children of CSWs to school in some rural, remote, and northern communities, school divisions may use their discretion to provide bus transportation to children who do not have alternative means of transportation, provided two metres of distancing between passengers is maintained on the bus.

- Urban school divisions may also transport children of critical services workers who do not have other means of transportation (e.g., those with mobility issues) during a Critical (Red) level, provided two metres of physical distancing between passengers is maintained on the bus.

Teacher Candidates

- The COVID19: 2020-004 circular lists K–12 education providers within *Tier One* of eligibility. As school divisions determine their capacity and prioritize CSW eligibility, teacher candidates who have K–6 children may be included in this category, along with teachers, administrators, and support staff.

RELEVANT WEB LINKS

COVID19: 2020-004 Guidance for Schools to Accommodate Kindergarten to Grade 6 Students who are Children of Critical Services Workers during a Critical (Red) Pandemic Response System Level
<https://www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/covid/docs/covidcircoc272020.pdf>.

Please forward questions and inquiries to educovid19@gov.mb.ca.

Additional information is available on the Manitoba Education COVID-19 website at www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/covid/latest.html.