

CHILDCARE MANUAL

SECTION:	6 - HEALTH CARE	DATE OF APPROVAL:	Draft May 2020, R-June 11, 2020, June 17, 2020, July 21, 2020, August 25, 2020, August 31, 2020, September 21, 2020, November 9, 2020
CODE:	HC- 016		
TITLE:	COVID-19 Health and Safety Guidance		

Public Health Units provide direction to Child Care Centres on Sanitary Practices and the steps that should be taken to minimize transmission of infectious diseases.

During a Pandemic, there may be no effective vaccine or treatment, therefore Public Health measures might be the only tools available to mitigate the impact of a virus. Public Health may provide additional guidelines specific to the Virus at the root of the Pandemic.

The practices outlined in this policy, in addition to our regular Sanitary Practices for our Childcare Centres have the goal of; prevention of the virus, screening and observation of children and staff for signs and symptoms of the virus, the appropriate response if a staff or child contacts the virus, and reducing the spread by promoting respiratory etiquette.

Health and Safety Requirements

1. All standard infection prevention and control practices are strictly adhered to including but not limited to;
 - All toys and equipment are made of material that can be cleaned and disinfected
 - Increased frequency of cleaning and disinfecting objects, toys and high touch surfaces (E.g. doorknobs, light switches, toilet handles, tabletops, tablets.)
 - High touch surfaces **MUST** be disinfected at minimum twice per day, and all disinfections logged in provided log.
 - Approved disinfectants will be provided to all childcare and EarlyON programs with Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS). Expiry Dates need to be checked and product used according to manufacturer's instructions.
 - Hand Hygiene **MUST** be practiced including assisting children and implementing additional opportunities throughout the day.
2. Physical distancing should be encouraged and can be promoted by;
 - Following provincial cohort and grouping rules
 - Spreading children out in to different areas as much as possible
 - Staggering snacks, and eliminating family style dining during the pandemic – **NO** food sharing reinforced, each child should have their own individual meal/snack plated for them.
 - Promote smaller groups and focus on outdoor programs if possible
 - Providing more individual opportunities or opportunities that encourage distance between children.
3. Group Sensory activities will be eliminated; individual sensory opportunities may be offered.
4. Outdoor play at childcare sites is encouraged, in small groups, to encourage social distancing. The use of community parks and playgrounds may not be approved by Public Health.

5. Distance between cots will be increased as much as possible keeping in mind head to toe or toe to toe placement – and cots cleaned and disinfected after each use, while individual assigned linens weekly or as needed.
6. All children’s personal items MUST be labelled E.g. sippy cups, bottles, soothers etc. to avoid accidental sharing. Staff personal items must be stored in assigned lockers or not brought into the centre.
7. Pick up and Drop off of children may happen at the door, to reduce the risk by fewer entering the childcare, unless it is determined that there is a need for the caregiver to enter the childcare.
8. Any payments should be made through email transfer to avoid the use of cash and cheque. Consideration will be given to those who do not have access.
9. Avoid getting close to the faces of the children, where possible
10. Clearly communicate to caregivers;
 - Check their child’s temperature daily, before coming to the childcare. IF the temperature is equal to or great than 38° C/100°F OR it the child has symptoms of respiratory infection or vomiting and/or diarrhea OR the child has had Tylenol/Advil THEY SHOULD STAY AT HOME.
11. It is possible that clothing can become contaminated and the virus transferred from attire to hands. While the expectation is that staff will continue to wear their uniform, it’s best practice to have a change of clothes at the childcare. Staff may want to change into their uniform when they arrive at work, and change back before leaving work taking their uniform home in a bag to be laundered before wearing again. Always use proper hand hygiene before and after removing potentially contaminated clothing.
12. Effective September 1, 2020 all staff must wear a medical face mask and eye protection (i.e. face shield or goggles) while inside the childcare setting, where physical distancing is not possible. Children in grades 4 and above must wear a non-medical or cloth face mask while inside the childcare premises, where physical distancing is not possible. Children grade 3 and below are encouraged but not required to wear a non-medical face mask or covering while inside a childcare. Masks are not recommended for children under the age of 2.

Screening

1. All children, staff, and post-secondary students on educational placement MUST be screened prior to entry into the child care. Entry will be denied to any individual who does not pass the screening. Screening criteria includes;
 - Temperature checks
 - signs or symptoms of respiratory infection e.g. cough, shortness of breath, sore throat or fever
 - anyone who has traveled outside of Canada in the past 14 days,
 - signs and symptoms of COVID19
2. Thermometers used must have single use protective covers and disinfecting between each use OR an Infrared Forehead Thermometer.
3. Ill children MUST not attend childcare. Individuals who do not pass screening because they are symptomatic must be reported to Public Health.
4. Protocols will be in place to notify parents/guardians if their child begins to show signs and symptoms of the Virus while in childcare, including the need for immediate pick up.
5. Volunteers and non-essential visitors must pass the screening criteria prior to entering the child care.

Management of Children with Symptoms of the Virus

1. If a child begins to experience **any** symptom of the virus while in childcare;
 - The symptomatic child is immediately separated from others in the same group, in a supervised area until they can go home. Staff providing supervision should maintain a distance of 2 meters where possible, PPE may be available if safe distance cannot be maintained. If possible, the remaining group should move outside so a thorough cleaning and disinfecting of the space can be completed.
 - If the distance cannot be maintained, Public Health will provide advice and guidance to prevent/limit transmission to staff.

- While contacting the Public Health Unit, at minimum the child and staff should wear a surgical mask, if possible. Children under 2 should not be made to wear a mask.
- Hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette should be practiced while the child is waiting to be picked up.
- Tissues should be provided to the child for proper respiratory etiquette with proper disposal of tissues and hand washing.
- Thorough Environmental cleaning of the separated space should be conducted once the child has been picked up.
- Contact with Public Health will be necessary to notify them of a potential case, and seek input regarding information that should be shared with other parents/guardians of children in the childcare.
- Children with symptoms **MUST** be excluded from childcare **until they get a COVID-19 test with negative test results and are symptom free for 24 hours or** for 14 days after onset of symptoms and are 24 hours' symptom free.
- Children or staff who have been exposed to a confirmed case of the virus, should be excluded from the childcare **until they get a COVID-19 test with negative test results or** for 14 days.
- Effective **November 9, 2020 a Serious Occurrence is required to be submitted for COVID-19 related matters only for the following;**
 - **Confirmed COVID-19 Cases in children or staff of the child care; or**
 - **Closures ordered by the local Public Health Unit (i.e. closure ordered due to confirmed or suspected COVID-19 case)**