

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, December 1, 2020, January 21, 2021, May 5, 2021, August 24, 2021, September 9, 2021, January 4, 2022, Jan. 17, 2022, Feb. 15, 2022, March 10, 2022
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. **Effective March 9, 2022 the Chief Medical Officer of Health and Ministry of Education are moving to realign childcares with community measures for living with the COVID-19 Virus. The province is returning childcare programs to a more “normal” learning environment, while maintaining some protective measures.**

Vaccines for COVID-19 are proven effective and reduce transmission and illness in those who are vaccinated. Kids & Us strongly recommends the COVID-19 Vaccine for **eligible individuals** in order to reduce workplace illness and transmission, and to protect the vulnerable children in our care.

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. **The following** standard infection prevention and control practices will continue in our programs;
 - All toys and equipment are made of material that can be cleaned and disinfected, and items that cannot be cleaned and disinfected, but can be rotated/isolated for 7 days.
 - Cleaning and disinfecting objects, toys and high touch surfaces (E.g. doorknobs, light switches, toilet handles, tabletops, tablets.)
 - High touch surfaces **will** be disinfected at minimum **daily and as needed, using the electrostatic sprayer where available.**
 - Data Sheets (SDS). 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. Effective August 3, 2021 group sensory activities may be reintroduced with an emphasis on hand hygiene before and after use of the materials; individual sensory opportunities may continue to be offered.

3. 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.
4. Effective March 21st pick up and Drop off of children should be encouraged to be in the centres. We are at a time where we can welcome families back into the childcare.
5. Clearly communicate to families that self-screening should take place at home prior to arrival at the childcare. Check their child's temperature daily, if the temperature is equal to or great than 38° C/100°F OR if the child has symptoms of respiratory infection or vomiting and/or diarrhea OR the child has had Tylenol/Advil THEY SHOULD STAY AT HOME.
6. Effective March 21, 2022 masks and eye protection is no longer required in the childcare.
7. HEPA Units have been distributed to each classroom in every childcare. These units will aid in ventilation, additionally where possible windows can be opened to assist with ventilation.
8. In the event of a spike in absenteeism (~30% or more) child cares will report to Public Health to monitor COVID-19 impacts.

Screening

1. All children, staff, post-secondary students on educational placement and all visitors should self-screen prior to entry into the child care. Using the provincial screening tool will provide the most up to date guidance for symptomatic individuals
2. Ill children MUST not attend childcare. Individuals who do not pass screening because they are symptomatic must follow Public Health guidelines.
3. 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. Under the CCEYA a daily observation of each child must be made for every child in attendance to detect possible symptoms of ill health.
4. Contact information for all visitors, will be recorded in a visitor log and kept on file.

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 will be separated from others in the same group, in a supervised area until they can go home. PPE will be available if safe distance cannot be maintained. This must be recorded in the child's record of illness.
 - Hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette should be practiced while the child is waiting to be picked up.
 - PPE may be donned if an individual is symptomatic, while waiting to go home.
 - Tissues should be provided to the child for proper respiratory etiquette with proper disposal of tissues and hand washing.
 - Thorough environmental cleaning of the separate space should be conducted once the child has been picked up.
 - Children with any symptoms will be excluded from childcare until they cleared via current direction of local public health. Effective January 2022, PCR testing is no longer available to children in childcare. The MEDU has announced each child and staff will be provided with RAT's to use when symptomatic, if testing with a RAT, please follow all provided instructions. If additional RAT's are available, they may be provided to children and staff as needed.
 - Effective February 7, 2022 a Serious Occurrence is only required to be submitted for COVID-19 related closures ordered by the local Public Health Unit or voluntary closures impacting the entire centre.