

**CHILDCARE MANUAL**

SECTION:	<b>6 - HEALTH CARE</b>	DATE OF APPROVAL:	Draft June 2020 R-June 16, 2020, June 18, 2020, June 22, 2020, July 21, 2020, July 23, 2020, August 24, 2020, August 31, 2020, Sept. 3, 2020, Sept. 21, 20, Nov. 9, 20, Dec. 1, 20, May 5, 2021, August 5, 2021, Sept. 28, 2021, January 4, 2022, Jan 17, 2022, Feb 15, 2022 <b>March 10, 2022</b>
CODE:	<b>HC- 017</b>		
TITLE:	<b>Outbreak Management for COVID-19 Related Symptoms</b>		

**Policy**

To ensure the health and well-being of children and staff within childcare centre's, all children should be monitored while in care for new and emerging signs and symptoms of any illness, including COVID-19. Children or staff who become ill while attending our childcare programs must be isolated and sent home as soon as possible. Program staff must initiate the following measures related to Outbreak Management for COVID-19.

**Procedures****Health Checks for Children in Care**

Children in care will have passed the daily screening prior to entering the childcare centre. Staff must ensure that all children in care are monitored throughout the day for illness, including observing for the following symptoms;

- Fever (temperature of 38° or higher)
- New or worsening cough or shortness of breath
- Runny nose, sore throat or diarrhea

Staff must ensure that hand hygiene is performed before and after each health check with each child. Thermometers, if not infrared no touch, must be disinfected after each use with an alcohol wipe and a one-minute contact time between use. Staff must note any symptoms observed and resulting health check details on the child's Ill Health Form. Health checks need not be recorded if there are no symptoms if ill health.

**Children who Display COVID-19 related Symptoms During Care**

If any of the symptoms related to COVID-19 are present in a child, the child must be excluded from the classroom into an isolated area and arrangements made to be sent home immediately. Staff are required to:

- Isolate the child with symptoms immediately from the other children and staff into an isolated area/room.
- Move the group of children who were in contact to a vacant area, e.g. playground so that the room can be immediately cleaned and disinfected.
- Keep the isolated child comfortable by providing a separate cot and toys, and clean and disinfect after the child leaves.
- While waiting to be taken home, the child must be supervised by only one staff until the child leaves, while maintaining a distance of 2m if possible.
- Have the child, if over the age of 2, wear a surgical type mask to cover the nose and mouth (if possible). The staff supervising the child should also wear a medical or non-fit tested N95 face mask and eye protection, additional PPE will be provided for staff. Staff should perform hand hygiene and attempt to NOT touch their face with unwashed hands. Although not required, disposable gloves may be used

when there is close contact with the child. Staff must ensure that they perform appropriate hand hygiene immediately upon removal of gloves. The most important measures are proper hand hygiene and maintaining a 2 m distance as much as possible.

- Staff will notify the parent/caregiver to arrange immediate pick up of the child. If the parent(s)/caregiver cannot be reached, the emergency contact will be contacted to pick up the child. Effective January 17<sup>th</sup>, 2022 if Rapid Antigen Test Kits (RAT) provided by the MEDU are available, symptomatic children may be provided with 2 to take home to test prior to returning to care.
- Staff will document the symptoms observed, date and time of onset of symptoms, and the program the child attended on their Ill Health Form/Public Health Line List
- Once the child has gone home, the isolation room/area will be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected.
- Refer to the [COVID-19 Integrated Testing & Case, Contact and Outbreak Management Interim Guidance: Omicron Surge](#) for the most up to date guidance and direction for self-isolation.

#### Staff Who Display COVID-19 Related Symptoms While at Work

In the event that a staff person becomes ill while at the childcare, the staff should isolate themselves as quickly as possible until they are able to leave the centre. Any staff who presents any one of the symptoms of COVID-19 including fever, new or worsening cough or shortness of breath must not enter the centre.

- PCR COVID-19 Testing is no longer available to childcare staff, effective January 2022. However, the MEDU has provided RAT's that can be used for symptomatic staff prior to their return to work. Staff who can produce 2 negative RAT results with 24-48 hours in-between with improving symptoms, may return to work.
- Staff must remain off work until they are cleared based on the most current guidance from local Public Health.
- Children or staff who have household member with a confirmed case of COVID-19, are symptomatic or are waiting for COVID-19 test results **shall follow the most current guidance from Public Health.**

#### Procedures for Confirmed COVID-19 Illness

If the centre is notified of a staff or child has tested positive for COVID-19, the following steps will be taken.

- Continue to exclude the person with confirmed COVID-19 from the centre until public health isolation requirements have been met and the individual is better, with improving symptoms for 24-48 hours.
- Notify staff of need for increased cleaning and disinfecting practices, using an approved disinfectant checking the expiry date. If using Bleach, use appropriate concentration of bleach and water.

Public Health will no longer conduct contract tracing in childcare settings, and therefore the practice of isolating cohorts has ended. Public Health may still support childcare centres to navigate any concerns with COVID-19 and may order a classroom or program closure if necessary. In the event that Public Health orders a closure of the childcare centre, credits for paid childcare will be considered by the Board of Directors.

#### Occupational Health and Safety for Staff

If the staff's illness is determined to be work-related, in accordance with Occupation Health and Safety Act and its regulations, Kids & Us must provide written notice, within 4 days of notice, that the staff has an occupational illness, including an occupationally-acquired infection on behalf of said staff to the:

- Ministry of Labour, and
- Occupational Insurance Company

#### Closure of the Child Care

The decision to close the childcare will depend on several factors and will be determined on a case by case basis in consultation with Grey Bruce Public Health. Additionally, voluntary closures of the centre related to COVID-19 may happen, with current staffing shortages. Either way, a Serious Occurrence will need to be filed through CCLS if the closure effects the entire centre.