



May 19, 2020

## COVID-19 POLICY

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### Public Health Measures

Do not apply to child care centres.

### Environmental Measures

Have children play outside often, including learning activities, snack time and play time.

Activities should be organized in a thoughtful way, taking into consideration personal measures.

Reassure children and parents that playgrounds are a safe environment, and encourage appropriate hand hygiene practices before and after outdoor play.

Ensure adequate ventilation and open windows if possible.

General cleaning and disinfecting of the centre should occur at least once a day.

Frequently touched surfaces should be cleaned and disinfected twice a day.

Use of approved bleach solution.

Remove toys and other items that cannot be easily cleaned (i.e. plush toys)

Empty garbage containers daily, at minimum.

Wear disposable gloves when cleaning blood or bodily fluids. Wash hands before and after removing gloves.

Clean and disinfect cots after each use. Place linens in a sealed plastic or washable bag between use. Launder once a week or as needed.

Clean diapering stations after each use.

### Administrative Measures

Establish a policy which clearly communicates to parents and caregivers the need to assess their child daily for symptoms before sending them to the child care centre.

Establish a policy and procedures for staff and children who become sick while at the child care facility.

Ask parents and caregivers about illness at drop off to confirm that the child does not have symptoms of common cold, influenza, COVID-19 or respiratory illness.

Post signage to remind people not to enter the facility if they are sick.

Existing space requirements of a licensed facility already provide sufficient space for physical distancing.

Staff should minimize the frequency of direct physical contact with children and encourage the same among children.

Staff should maintain physical distancing from each other.

It is developmentally appropriate to support infants and toddlers in minimizing direct contact with others (as opposed to enforcing social distancing).

Avoid close greetings.

Strive to minimize the number of different staff that interact with the same children throughout the day.

Organize children into small groups and/or spread children out:

Reconfigure rooms

Set up small environments

Increase the distance between sleeping and eating areas.

Stagger meal times.

Minimize the number of additional adults entering the centre.

Stagger the timings of pick-up and drop off

Parents that are symptomatic must not enter the child care facility.

### Personal Measure

All parents, caregivers, children and staff who have symptoms of COVID-19 **OR** travelled outside of Canada in the last 14 days **OR** were identified by Public Health as a close contact of a confirmed case **must stay at home and self-isolate**.

Parents and caregivers must assess their child daily for symptoms of common cold, influenza, COVID-19 or infectious respiratory disease before sending them to child care.

Children who are ill will not be permitted to attend the facility.

Staff must assess themselves daily prior to working and stay home if they are ill.

Rigorous hand washing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds for staff and children.

Promote respiratory etiquette including “catching” coughs and sneezes in your elbow, refrain from touching face and mouthing toys.

No sharing drinks, food, cups, face cloths or other personal items.

Personal comfort items should be cleaned daily before entry into the child care facility.

### Personal Protective Measures

PPE's are not recommended for children in child care centres. Staff should use only those normally used in the course of their work such as gloves and other universal precautions.

Masks are not recommended for children (may lead to increase in touching face). Use by staff is a personal choice but is not recommended.