



COVID-19 POLICY
Home Child Care

Policies and Procedures

Policy Title: COVID-19 Daily Health Screening for Caregivers and Residents of the Home	Revision Date: June 9, 2021
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Authority: Manager, Home Child Care
Public Health, Region of Waterloo
Government of Ontario – Ministry of Education

Policy Statement:

As per Ministry direction, an enhanced screening process must be completed daily in all home child care settings by all members of the household.

Procedure:

Every person living in the home of a child care provider must complete the daily screen. This applies to those who live in their own space within the home (for example have their room in the basement).

1. Provincial school and child care screening tool

- **Daily screening (including temperature checks) will be completed by each member of the Caregiver household using the [Covid-19 school and child care screening tool](#) before child care begins each day.**
- **Members of the home can complete the screen by identifying themselves as “Employee (for example, teacher, office staff, custodian, bus driver)”**

As part of the efforts to strengthen health and safety measures and update guidance to reflect provincial trends and transmission risks, the government has made changes to the COVID-19 school and child care screening criteria as of February 18, 2021.

These changes include new provincial direction that staff (including any residents of the home) and children with any new or worsening symptoms of COVID-19, as indicated in the school and child care screening tool, even those with only one symptom, must stay home until:

- **They receive a negative COVID-19 test result.**

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- They receive an alternative diagnosis by a health care professional, or
- It has been 10 days since their symptom onset and they are feeling better.

If the screen indicates that any individual in the home must isolate, care must be cancelled immediately, and the Caregiver must contact their Consultant for further guidance.

2. Isolation requirement for household contacts of symptomatic individuals

As of February 12, the Ministry of Health has issued guidance to public health units regarding COVID-19 variants of concern (COVID-19 Variant of Concern: Case, Contact and Outbreak Management Interim Guidance, Version 2.0 – February 12, 2021), requiring all household contacts of symptomatic individuals to isolate.

All household members must isolate even if it is only a single symptom.

All asymptomatic household contacts of symptomatic individuals are required to isolate until the symptomatic household member:

- receives a negative COVID-19 test result, or
- receives an alternative diagnosis by a health care professional

If the symptomatic individual tests positive, or is not tested and does not receive an alternative diagnosis from a health care professional, the symptomatic individual must isolate (including from household members) for 10 days from symptom onset, and all household contacts must isolate until 14 days from their last contact with the symptomatic individual.

Procedure When a Caregiver or Resident in the Home Fails Screening:

- Caregiver will contact their Home Child Care Consultant immediately to make them aware of the situation and to determine next steps for child care operations. It may not be required that the Home Child Care Program notify Public Health if a Caregiver or Resident in the home fails screening however the Caregiver must follow the steps below prior to resuming child care operations
- Caregivers will follow the directions provided in the [Covid-19 school and child care screening tool](#) to determine next steps in the event of failed screening for anyone in the home.

- It is recommended that a Caregiver or adult resident in the home failing screening isolate within the home and arrange for Covid-testing as soon as possible. Click [here](#) for testing sites located in Waterloo Region
- Caregivers are required to provide **verbal** verification of negative Covid testing or clearance resulting from clinical assessment by a doctor prior to resuming child care operations in the home. In order to protect the health and safety of themselves, residents in the home, children in care, and families, Caregivers are also urged to follow these guidelines if either themselves or a resident in their home develops symptoms of Covid-19 outside of child care hours (e.g. in the evening, on a weekend)
- If Covid testing is refused the Caregiver must exclude themselves and residents in their home for a period of 14 days unless otherwise recommended through clinical assessment by a doctor

Procedure When a Caregiver or Resident in the Home is Displaying Covid-19 Symptoms During Child Care Hours:

- Caregivers will contact the Home Child Care Consultant immediately to make them aware of the situation. As required, in the event of a symptomatic individual in a child care setting, the Home Child Care Program will determine if reporting is required to Public Health. Caregivers will **only** be contacted by Public Health for follow-up or direction under circumstances deemed necessary for further investigation
- Caregiver will immediately contact parents of children in care to make arrangements for pick-up
- Caregivers who develop symptoms should make every effort to physically distance themselves safely from children in care or wear protective equipment (face mask / eye protection) while also ensuring full supervision of children in care. If a resident in the home is ill every attempt should be made to isolate the individual from children in care
- In the event that a Caregiver's own child becomes ill at school it is recommended that the Caregiver make alternate arrangements whenever possible to have someone else pick up their child from school. It is also recommended that where possible the ill child does not return to the Caregiver home during child care hours. If the ill child comes home every attempt must be made to isolate the child from children in care while waiting for parents to pick up. If the child is required to

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isolate as per direction from Public Health Caregivers will notify the Home Child Care program to determine next steps

- It is recommended that Caregivers follow the directions of the [Covid-19 school and child care screening tool](#) which may include making arrangements for Covid-testing. Click [here](#) for testing sites located in Waterloo Region
- Caregivers are required to provide **verbal** verification of negative Covid testing or clearance resulting from clinical assessment by a doctor prior to resuming child care operations
- If Covid testing is refused the Caregiver must exclude themselves and residents in the home for a period of 14 days unless otherwise recommended through clinical assessment and clearance by a doctor
- Caregivers must complete a thorough cleaning and sanitizing of high-touch surfaces in the home prior to resuming child care operations

Changes to the COVID-19 Screening Tool related to COVID-19 post-vaccination symptoms

• **Screening Process:** If the child care staff, provider, placement student, child or visitor received a COVID-19 vaccination in the last 48 hours and is experiencing mild headache, fatigue, muscle aches, and/or joint pain that only began after vaccination, and no other symptoms, they should respond “no” in the screening tool and may continue to attend the child care program if they are feeling well enough to do so.

If the child care staff, provider, placement student, child or visitor lives in a household with an individual who received a COVID-19 vaccination in the last 48 hours and is experiencing mild headache, fatigue, muscle aches, and/or joint pain that only began after vaccination, and no other symptoms, they should respond “no” in the screening tool and are not required to self-isolate (stay home).

• **Masking:** If the child care staff, provider, placement student, child or visitor received a COVID-19 vaccination in the last 48 hours and has mild headache, fatigue, muscle aches and/or joint pain that only began after immunization, and no other symptoms, they are to wear a properly fitted mask for their entire time in the child care setting. The mask may only be removed to consume food or drink and the individual must remain at least two metres away from others when their mask has been removed.

• **Isolation and Testing:** If the mild headache, fatigue, muscle aches, and/or joint pain symptoms worsen, continue past 48 hours, or if the individual develops other symptoms, they should leave the child care setting immediately, or if in a home setting the home care provider should no longer offer care, to self-isolate and seek COVID-19 testing.

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Additional Resources:

COVID-19 School and Child Care Screening Tool:

<https://covid-19.ontario.ca/school-screening/>

Click [here](#) for testing sites located in Waterloo Region

To access additional resources about licensed child care operations during Covid-19 follow the link below:

https://www.regionofwaterloo.ca/en/health-and-wellness/coronavirus-resources-for-schools-and-child-care-centres.aspx?_mid_=31117

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