



Policy Title: COVID-19 Daily Health Screening for Children in Care	Revision Date: February 22, 2021
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COVID-19 POLICY

Home Child Care

Policies and Procedures

**Authority: Manager, Home Child Care
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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.

Procedure:

Caregivers should maintain physical distance (6 feet / 2 metres) during the screening process. If physical distancing cannot be maintained appropriate personal protective equipment (face mask, eye protection) should be worn. A designated area for arrival should be established that will limit any surface contact. Hand sanitizer (containing 60% to 90% alcohol content) should be available at the entrance. Ensure it is kept a safe distance from children to prevent ingestion.

For Drop Off/Pick Ups –

- meet the parent outside the entrance to limit contact
- Caregiver should process one family at a time
- parents should wait in their car or 6 feet / 2 metres away from family who is ahead of them
- providing visual markers of physical distancing requirements would be helpful to encourage this practice is followed
- in order to maintain physical distancing when transferring infants and young children in car seats parents should remove the child from the car and pass the child to the Caregiver. The Caregiver should wear appropriate personal protective equipment including a mask/eye protection. If car seats will be transferred to the Caregiver for use during child care hours the seats are to be removed from the vehicle by the parent

1. Provincial school and child care screening tool

- Active in-person daily screening (including temperature checks) will be completed by Caregivers for children in care using the [Covid-19 school and child care screening tool](#) before entrance to the premise.
- Parents can also complete the screen, however they must send a copy of the completed screen to the Caregiver OR visibly show the Caregiver at a distance their electronic device showing that the screen has been completed and passed. Each Caregiver is to determine the method of screening that will work for them and communicate this to the parents in their care.
- A printable copy of the screening tool can also be found here: https://covid-19.ontario.ca/covid19-cms-assets/2021-02/COVID-19%20school%20and%20child%20care%20screening_ENG_AODA.pdf

All children and staff are required to screen for symptoms of illness every day before coming to child care. 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 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.
- 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.

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.

This guidance is being applied to children by requiring them to stay home from child care if anyone in their household has new or worsening symptoms of COVID-19 and has been recommended for isolation and testing. 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 Child is Displaying COVID-19 Symptoms During Child Care:

- Caregiver will contact the parent for immediate pick-up of the ill child. If the parent cannot be reached, the emergency contact will be contacted to pick up the child
- While waiting for the ill child to be picked up, the Caregiver will ensure the child is at least two meters / 6 feet from the other children. Caregiver should ensure proper protective equipment (mask / eye protection) is worn while attending to ill child
- After attending to the child displaying symptoms, the Caregiver will ensure that his/her hands are disinfected prior to attending to the other children
- The Caregiver will remove any toys/objects/bedding that the child displaying symptoms has interacted with. Do not return these items until they have been washed and disinfected
- Caregivers will contact the Home Child Care Consultant immediately to make them aware of the situation. As required, in the event of a symptomatic child in attendance in a child care setting, the Home Child Care Program will determine whether to report the illness to Public Health. Parents will **only** be contacted by Public Health for follow-up or direction under circumstances deemed necessary for further investigation

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

[Covid-19 Self-Assessment Tool](#)

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>