



COVID-19 POLICY

Home Child Care

Policies and Procedures

Policy Title:

COVID-19 Daily Health
Screening for Essential
Visitors

Revision Date:

February 26, 2021

**Authority: Manager, Home Child Care
Public Health, Region of Waterloo
Government of Ontario – Ministry of Education**

Policy Statement:

As per Ministry direction, visitors should not be attending the home during child care hours unless it is essential. Examples of essential visitors include:

- **Region of Waterloo Home Child Care Staff**
- **Ministry of Education Inspectors**
- **Health Care / Child Care professionals required for in-home services for either residents of the home or children in care**

Procedure:

Ensure **any** visitors to your home are documented in your daily log **including** the time of their arrival/departure, as well as their contact information (phone number).

1. Provincial school and child care screening tool

- **Daily screening (including temperature checks) will be completed by the Caregiver for each visitor using the [Covid-19 school and child care screening tool](#) before entry into the premise.**

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 essential visitors) and children with any new or worsening symptoms of COVID-19, as

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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.

If the screen indicates that any individual in the home must isolate, the visitor cannot enter the premise, and the Caregiver must contact their Consultant for further guidance.

Procedure When a Visitor to the Home Fails Screening:

- Caregiver will contact their Home Child Care Consultant immediately to make them aware of the situation. It may not be required that the Home Child Care Program notify Public Health if a Visitor fails screening
- It is recommended that the Visitor follow the directions of the [Covid-19 school and child care screening tool](#) which may include isolating and making arrangements for Covid-testing as soon as possible. Click [here](#) for testing sites located in Waterloo Region
- Visitors are required to provide **verbal** verification of negative Covid testing or clearance resulting from clinical assessment by a doctor prior to returning to the child care setting. In order to promote and protect community health and safety Visitors are also urged to follow screening guidelines if they develop symptoms of Covid-19 outside of a child care setting
- If Covid testing is refused the Visitor must exclude themselves from the child care setting for a period of 14 days unless otherwise recommended through clinical assessment and clearance by a doctor

Procedure When a Visitor is Displaying Covid-19 Symptoms During Child Care:

- The Visitor will immediately leave the child care setting and follow guidelines for isolation, testing and exclusion from the child care setting
- Caregivers will contact the Home Child Care Consultant immediately to make them aware of the situation and determine next steps for child care operations. As required, in the event of a symptomatic individual in attendance in a child care setting, the Home Child Care Program will determine whether to report the illness to Public Health. The Visitor will **only** be contacted by Public Health for follow-up or direction under circumstances deemed necessary for further investigation

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- Anyone with symptoms must isolate at home and make arrangements for Covid-testing as soon as possible. Click [here](#) for testing sites located in Waterloo Region
- A Visitor is required to provide **verbal** verification of negative Covid testing or clearance resulting from clinical assessment by a doctor prior to the return to the child care setting
- If Covid testing is refused the Visitor must be excluded from the child care setting for a period of 14 days unless otherwise recommended through clinical assessment and clearance by a doctor

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.

Additional Resources:

COVID-19 School and Child Care Screening Tool:

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<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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