

COVID-19 Illness/Exposure COVID-19 Protocol

Niagara Region Emergency Child Care Centres

Intent: The procedure must be followed by Children’s Services staff in the event that a child, parent or staff member at the centre is exposed to COVID-19.

In the event of exposure: If a child, parent or employee exhibits COVID-19 or influenza like symptoms, they should be sent home immediately to avoid spreading the illness. A child, parent or employee should not return to work until they have been cleared to return by an appropriate medical professional or as prescribed by what is permissible under a public health agency.

If a child becomes sick during care, the child will be separated from the other children. Families will be contacted for immediate pick up from the child care centre. All surfaces and handles will be cleaned and disinfected in the room of the ill child. Track in the daily log book children’s illness. Where ever possible toys will be removed and cleaned and disinfected wherever possible. If there is an increase in illness or multiple children are presenting the same symptoms at the child care centre, contact Public Health.

Children’s Services team would follow Publics Health’s Medical Officer of Health’s direction if a child, parent or employee tests positive for COVID -19.

Serious Occurrence: Should you become aware of a suspected or confirmed case of COVID-19 related to any child, staff or family member of child/staff within the child care program, a separate serious occurrence report must be filed through CCLS as “life threatening injury or illness” – illness is required.

Preventative Protocol:

Screening

- Staff will answer all questions on the Health Check Screening Checklist prior to commencing their shift.
- All children and parents will be screened daily at the front entrance by a staff.
 - Set of screening questions at the buzzer system
 - All staff, children and families must use hand sanitizer upon entry into the child care centre.
 - Completion of the Health Check Screening Checklist at the front entrance.
 - COVID-19 symptoms include:
 - Fever
 - Cough
 - Muscle aches and tiredness
 - Shortness of breath and difficulty breathing

- Less commonly: sore throat, headache and diarrhea have been reported
- Each staff and family responses must be recorded on the Health Check Screening checklist.
- If staff, child or parents answer yes to any one of the questions, entry into the child care facility will not be permitted. They should be advised to contact their healthcare professional or Public Health.
 - Public Health Novel CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) link: <https://www.niagararegion.ca/health/covid-19/default.aspx?topic=1>
 - COVID-19 Public Health Info Line : 905-688-8248 ext 7019
 - COVID-19 Public Health Chat Link: <https://vue.comm100.com/chatWindow.aspx?siteId=232657&planId=531#>
 - Complete Public Health's COVID-19 Self-Assessment: <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/self-assessment/#q0>
- Only one family at a time will be permitted to be screened.
- Additional families awaiting entrance must wait outside of the building.
 - Reminder to keep physical distancing space between each other while they wait.
 - Markers every 6 ft will be set up reminding people to keep a safe space.
 - Each family must buzz in and be asked the pre-screen questions prior to entering.
- The buzzer system and front door handles must be disinfected in-between each family by the screening staff (See Cleaning and Disinfecting Protocol)
- Children will be transitioned to the playrooms by a staff, unless the child requires additional supports while transitioning from parent to CCC staff.

Actions to Protect Your Health

- Wash your hands often with soap and water or alcohol based hand sanitizer
- Sneezing and cough into your sleeve
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth
- Avoid contact with people who are sick
- Stay home if you are sick
- Remind parents that they should be monitoring their children's health and keeping children who are unwell at home.
- If travelling outside of Canada, stay home for 14 days and remind parents to do so as well.

Additional Support Procedures

- The child care centre Supervisor or designate and/or Children's Services Manager will check Niagara Regions Public Health [Novel Coronavirus Update](https://www.niagararegion.ca/health/covid-19/default.aspx?topic=1) website daily: <https://www.niagararegion.ca/health/covid-19/default.aspx?topic=1>

- Supervisor or designate and/or Children’s Service Manager will review the following links on the website to be informed of the most updated information and changes.
 - Risk & Symptoms
<https://www.niagararegion.ca/health/covid-19/symptoms.aspx>
 - Social Distancing
<https://www.niagararegion.ca/health/covid-19/social-distancing.aspx>
 - How to Protect Yourself
<https://www.niagararegion.ca/health/covid-19/prevention.aspx>
 - Cleaning and Disinfecting
<https://www.niagararegion.ca/health/covid-19/cleaning.aspx>
 - Frequently Asked Questions
<https://www.niagararegion.ca/health/covid-19/faq.aspx>
 - Resources
<https://www.niagararegion.ca/health/covid-19/resources.aspx>
- Supervisors or designate and/or Children’s Services Manager will review our regular internal updates, provided to all employees via email, notifications regarding the Niagara Region COVID-19 Updates



Additional Staffing Supports

- Employee and Family Assistance Program (EFAP) can be accessed by employees.
- Seeking Access to EFAP is 24/7/365 – by telephone or online:
 - Call the Morneau Shepell Care Access Centre toll free at 1-844-880-9142
 - Via www.workhealthlifecom for:
 - Online access to request services;
 - First Chat: to type/text a real-time conversation with a counsellor

- E-Counselling to exchange written messages online with a counsellor
- My EAP mobile application provides on-the-go support with a timely selection of articles, videos and direct access to e-counselling. Click here to download www.workhealthlife.com/myeap