

September 15, 2020

**RECOMMENDED GUIDELINES FOR LICENSED CHILD CARE  
CENTRE/HOME CHILD CARE VISITS: COVID-19 GUIDANCE FOR  
RESOURCE/BEHAVIOUR CONSULTANTS:**

**ONSITE CONSULTATIVE SUPPORT AT LICENSED CHILD CARE CENTRES/HOME  
CHILD CARE PROGRAM:**

These are scheduled visits. The frequency of the visits are based on the level of support required.

Special Needs Resourcing Agencies can determine how many licensed child care programs per day the Resource/Behaviour Consultant will visit.

**HEALTH SCREENINGS:**

Health Screening is taking place daily for the following individuals prior to entering the child care program:

- All enrolled children/family.
- Child care centre employees/Home Child Care Program employees, contracted providers and residents of the provider's home.
- Essential visitors (i.e. Resource/Behaviour Consultants, Ministry Program Advisor, Public Health).

These health screenings determine whether individuals can enter the child care program and will be maintained and kept onsite for at least 12 months for licensing purposes.

**PROCESS WHEN SYMPTOM(S) ARE IDENTIFIED IN AN INDIVIDUAL:**

Upon completion of the Health Screening, individuals will not be accepted into the child care setting if they exhibit any COVID-19 symptom(s), even if symptom(s) resemble a mild cold. Even though some children/staff/Home Child Care Providers may have underlying conditions that are known (i.e. allergies), you cannot assume this is the cause of a symptom at this time

Individuals will not be permitted to enter the child care program if:

- They have a temperature equal to or above 37.8 C or;
- Any of the Health Screening questions are answered "yes".

If the Resource/Behaviour Consultant fails the Health Screening, they should contact their Supervisor immediately for follow-up.

Individuals have the choice of the following options when symptom(s) of ill health are present:

- Contact their Health Care Practitioner for assessment.
- Self-refer for COVID-19 testing. Call Niagara Health at 905-378-4647 ext. 42819.
- Contact the Niagara Region Public Health COVID-19 hotline for assessment and suitability for testing:
  - [Niagara Region COVID-19](#) web page
  - Online chat: Hours: Monday to Friday 9:15 am – 8:30 pm; Saturday and Sunday: 9:15 am – 4:15 pm
  - COVID-19 line 1-888-505-6074; 905-688-8248, press 7, then press 2

Please note: Exclusion from the child care program (as per the daily screening) is also applicable for the following if the individual:

- Resides with anyone who exhibits symptoms of COVID-19.
- Has been exposed to a confirmed case of COVID-19.
- Has travelled outside of Canada: must self isolate for 14 days upon return.

The Resource/Behaviour Consultant is not permitted to return to the child care program until one of the below criteria is met:

- Clearance from their Health Care Practitioner
- Completion of 14 day self-isolation and must be symptom free prior to returning.
- For COVID-19 test results:
  - Negative test results: must be excluded from the program until 24 hours after symptoms resolve
  - Positive test results: individual has completed the 14-day isolation criteria as directed by public health, fever has resolved and the individual has been consistently improving over the previous 72 hours.

The Resource/Behaviour Consultant should also follow any additional employer protocols. The employer of the Resource Consultant is responsible to clear the employee in order to return to the child care program: daily health screening is required to enter the child care program.

**CLEARANCE FOR RETURN TO CHILD CARE CENTRE OR HOME CHILD CARE PROGRAM MAY BE OBTAINED IN THREE WAYS:**

- Health Care Practitioner has been consulted and has provided clearance for the Resource Consultant to return, and all questions on the Health Screening Checklist are satisfied.
  - If tested and a negative COVID-19 test is obtained, exclusion will continue until 24 hours after symptoms have resolved and all questions on the child care Health Screening are satisfied.

- They have remained out of the child care program for 14 days of isolation from symptom onset and are asymptomatic and all questions on the childcare Health Screening Checklist are satisfied.

**Positive COVID-19 Test Results:**

- A single, symptomatic, laboratory confirmed case of COVID-19 in a licensed child care program of a staff member, Home Child Care Provider or child may be considered a COVID-19 outbreak. Public Health will provide direction and support.

**CONSULTATION AT THE CHILD CARE CENTRE/HOME CHILD CARE PROGRAM:**

**Personal Protective Equipment (PPE):**

A medical mask and eye protection (i.e. face shield or goggles) will be worn by the Resource/Behaviour Consultant at all times when they are essential visitors to the child care program. RC agencies may have additional requirements through their own protocols. Eye goggles must be PPE approved.

Hand sanitizer will be used before, during and after visits, with an alcohol concentration of 60-90%, but over 70% is preferred.

Individuals should always have access to a back-up mask in case they become contaminated, dropped, break, etc.

**Recommendations for proper donning (putting on), doffing (taking off) and storage procedures each time the mask is removed:**

This includes but not limited to:

- Washing or sanitizing hands prior to putting mask on.
- Washing or sanitizing your hands immediately after taking mask off.
- Masks must be stored in a plastic container with a lid.
  - Remove mask by only touching the ear loops.
  - Place the mask in the centre of a clean plastic container.
  - Ear loops will hang over the outside of the container.
  - The lid will be placed on until staff ready to don the mask.
  - All containers must be labelled with name.
  - Masks must not be stored on your person (i.e., pockets) or on other surfaces (i. e., staff room table).
  - Dispose of mask in a closed bin/garbage.
  - Do not put the mask on around your neck or up on your forehead.
  - Do not touch the outside of your mask and if you do, wash or sanitize your hands immediately.
  - If mask becomes wet or soiled, it will need to be changed.

Refer to the resource links below for washing hands, and donning and doffing a mask.

**Cleaning of PPE:**

**Face Shields/goggles:**

- Must be cleaned and disinfected daily, and at any time they are contaminated.
- Follow manufacturer’s instructions, but in most cases, they should be capable of being cleaned with detergent, rinsed and then disinfected based on contact time of chemical.
- Should be cleaned from the inside (least contaminated) to the outside (most contaminated).
- Avoid getting the foam forehead piece and strap wet as they may become damaged from chemicals.

**Personal Belongings:**

- Bringing personal belongings into the child care program should be minimized as much as possible. Consider putting separate items in one bag (i.e. bag pack, computer bag).

**INTERACTIONS WITH EDUCATORS AND CHILDREN:**

Resource Consultants should consider ways to minimize interactions with groups of children. The RC should plan with the supervisor of the child care for parameters around interactions. When the DISC is used, items need to be cleaned and disinfected after use by each child. These items need to be placed in a separate container and cleaned and disinfected at the Resource Consultant agency office.

Below are a few examples:

- Visits are encouraged to take place outdoors as much as possible.
- Standing in the doorway of the playroom for observations.
- Developmental screening: can take place:
  - in the room of the cohort or;
  - outside at a table if possible.
  - in a separate room, providing the room is cleaned and sanitized before and after use.
- Avoid getting close to the faces of children where possible.
- Consider moving activities outside when possible to allow for more space.
- Singing /shouting activities indoors must be avoided to reduce the risk of transmission of germs.
- Incorporate more individual activities that encourage space between children.
- Encourage children to greet each other using non-physical gestures (i.e. wave, nod or verbal “hello”) and avoid close greetings (i.e. hugs).
- Remind children to keep “your hands to yourself”.

- If sensory materials (i.e. playdough, water, sand, etc.) are offered, they should be provided for single use (i.e. available to the child for the day) and labelled with the child's name, if applicable.
  - All materials/toys that are mouthed by a child must be removed, cleaned, and disinfected before being used again.
  - Suggestion: Containers in each room can be used.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL CLEANING AND DISINFECTING:**

### **Disinfecting Products:**

Check expiry dates of cleaning and disinfecting products used and always follow manufacturer's instructions (i.e. appropriate contact time). It is important to note that some disinfectants do not have expiration dates.

- Cleaners:
  - Break down grease and remove organic material from the surface
  - Use separately before using disinfectants.
  - Can be purchased with cleaner and disinfectant combined in a single product.
- Disinfectants:
  - Use a product that states it is a disinfectant and follow manufacturer's instructions.
  - Have chemicals that kill most germs.
  - Applied after surfaces have been cleaned.
  - Have a drug identification number (DIN).
  - Bleach: ratio of 20 ml bleach to 1 litre of water, with a one-minute contact time.
- Disinfectant wipes:
  - Have combined cleaners and disinfectants in one solution.
  - May become dry due to fast drying properties. Should be discarded if they become dry.
  - Not recommended for heavily soiled surfaces.

### **Environmental Adaptations and Cleaning Practices:**

- Ensure all toys used are made of material that can be cleaned and disinfected (put away plush toys and absorbent toys/equipment)
- Shared spaces, structures and toys must be cleaned and disinfected between co-horts and use by each child.
- Use toys and materials at the child care program wherever possible; avoid bringing in external toys and resources unless absolutely necessary (i.e. DISC kit). If toys/materials are required to be brought in, they should put in a sealed container, cleaned and disinfected before next use. Any items that cannot be

cleaned, (i.e. paper, books, cardboard puzzles) should be removed and stored in a sealed container for a minimum of 7 days.

**The following protocols are the responsibility of the Licensed Child Care Program:**

**MANAGEMENT OF CHILDREN WITH POSSIBLE COVID-19:**

**Sick Child(ren):**

- If a child begins to experience symptoms of COVID-19 during child care, the following should take place:
  - The child should be sent home as soon as possible; family member contacted for pick up. Symptomatic children are immediately separated from others in a supervised area until they can go home.
  - Where possible, maintain a distance of 2 metres. The adult will be wearing a disposable surgical mask and face shield already. If tolerated, and the child is over 2 years of age, they should also wear a single use mask. Suggestion: the child can play/read books on a surface that can easily be cleaned and disinfected.
  - If a 2-metre distance cannot be maintained from the ill child, advice from the local public health unit will be necessary to prevent/limit virus transmission to those providing care.
  - All items used by the sick person that cannot be disinfected should be stored in a sealed container for 7 days minimum.

**SERIOUS OCCURRENCE REPORTING:**

- Regulatory changes to O.Reg 137/15 have been made under the Child Care and Early Years Act, 2014, including serious occurrence reporting of confirmed or suspected case of COVID-19. The child care program is required to submit a Serious Occurrence as outlined in the regulations.

**SEEKING RELIABLE ADVICE ABOUT COVID-19:**

- For accurate up-to-date COVID-19 information, please visit Niagara Region Public Health's website at [Niagara Region Public Health](https://www.niagararegion.ca/public-health). If you are unable to find what you are looking for, call our COVID-19 health line to receive confidential professional advice on unique individual situations. Families who are unsure of how to answer any questions on the Regional Niagara Licensed Home Child Care COVID-19 Health Screening Checklist for participating children screening tool are advised to speak to a Public Health Nurse to help inform their answers. We ask that families err on the side of caution and consult Public Health whenever they are unsure, in order to protect the health of children in the child care program as best as we can.

**RESOURCES:**

- [Ministry of Education: Operational Guidance During COVID-19 Outbreak; Child Care Re-opening Version 2 – July 2020](#) (current version dated May 3, 2020)
- [Updated IPAC recommendations for use of PPE](#) (current version dated May 3, 2020)
- IPAC modules 1-6 can be accessed any time for a refresher in [My Learning](#). The sixth module is called “Additional Precautions” and emphasizes the basic principles and elements of Additional Precautions in all health care settings and contact, droplet and airborne precautions.
- [Donning and Doffing medical masks for reuse](#)
- [Universal Mask Use in Health Care](#) (current version April 22, 2020)
- [Optimizing the Use of PPE](#) (current version May 10, 2020)
- [Face Coverings](#)
- [Face Coverings and Face Masks](#)
- Public Health Ontario [COVID-19 Face Coverings for non-Health Care Workers Fact Sheet](#)

These guidelines have been reviewed by Niagara Region Public Health who have made recommendations regarding this document and assisted in guiding Children’s Services interpretation of the ‘Operational Guidance During Covid-19 Outbreak, Child Care Re-Opening Version 3- August 2020’.