

CHAPTER TWO: HEALTH AND SAFETY

Approval Date: June 2020 Revision Date: August 2020 Revision Date: October 2020 Revision Date: February 2021 Revision Date: April 2021 Revision Date: August 2021 Revision Date: September 2021 Revision Date: September 13, 2021 Revision Date: January 2022 Revision Date: March 2022	Policy: PANDEMIC PLANNING COVID-19 – PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT USE
	Policy Number: 2.5.3

Policy Statement

Child Care Algoma is committed to providing a safe and healthy environment for children, families and employees. Child Care Algoma will take every reasonable precaution to prevent the risk of communicable diseases within all our locations.

Purpose

To ensure that all employees are aware of, and adhere to, the directive established by Algoma Public Health (APH) and Canada's Chief Public Health Officer, regarding the wearing of medical masks in all Child Care Algoma programs.

Application

This policy applies to all Child Care Algoma employees and students

Procedure

Under current Federal travel requirements staff are required to wear a mask the first 14 days after international travel. Staff are also required to wear a mask for 10 days if they test positive for COVID-19 (for example days 5-10 determined by their response to the COVID-19 Screening tool for schools and child care settings), if a household member tests positive for COVID-19, if they are a close contact of someone who tested positive for COVID-19 and 10 days after their last exposure to someone who tested positive to COVID-19.

- a. The following adults are exempt from the requirement to wear a mask:
 - i. Persons with medical conditions who cannot safely wear a mask or face covering (e.g. due to breathing difficulties, cognitive difficulties, hearing or communication difficulties);
 - ii. Persons who cannot wear or remove a mask or face covering without assistance, including people who are accommodated under the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) or are protected under the Ontario Human Rights Code, R.S.O. 1990, c.H. 19 as amended;

Please note Child Care Algoma requires any employee accompanying a symptomatic child to an isolation space wear a mask as well as when they clean and disinfect the isolation space.

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Procedures for those choosing to wear a mask:

How to wear mask:

- Make sure your medical mask completely and comfortably covers the nose and mouth without gaping and allows for easy breathing.
- Do not adjust your medical mask to expose your nose
- Your nose and mouth must be covered at all times.
- Make sure your medical mask is secured to your head without the need to adjust frequently.
- Pinch the metal strip over the nose to ensure a closer fit to your nose.
- Do not let your mask hang around your neck when not in use.
- Do not store mask in your pocket
- Dispose mask in a lined garbage can
- Do not transport disposable masks home, dispose before leaving.

When to take mask off:

- Make sure to wash your hands first
- Remove before leaving the building at the end of the day

Re-place mask when:

- It becomes damp or dirty
- It becomes damaged

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N95 Masks

Staff will have the option to wear a non-fit-tested medical mask provided to Child Care Algoma from the Ministry of Education. Each staff has an allocation of one non-fit tested N95 mask per day.

Replacing a non-fit-tested N95 is driven by factors including but not limited to:

When it is no longer tolerated or accepted;
When the filtering part of the mask is wet;

When the mask has lost some of its integrity: relaxed elastic, damaged filtering part; and
When there were potentially infectious droplets splashing onto the mask.

To further protect the longevity of the non-fit-tested N95 masks, these masks should be restricted to indoor use. Staff wanting to wear a mask outside can wear medical masks outside.

For instructions for donning a non-fit-tested N95 mask staff will watch the video below to ensure it is worn correctly.

<https://vimeo.com/466711181>

Policy and Procedure Review

This policy and procedure will be reviewed and signed off by all employees before commencing employment/unpaid placement in a Child Care Algoma emergency child care centre, and at any time where a change is made.