

## CHAPTER TWO: HEALTH AND SAFETY

Approval Date: June 2020 Revision Date: October 2020 Revision Date: August 2021 Revision Date: January 2022 Revision Date: March 2022	Policy: <b>PANDEMIC PLANNING COVID-19 – EXCLUSION OF SICK CHILDREN/ILL STAFF</b>
	Policy Number: 2.5.5

### 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), regarding the exclusion of sick children in Child Care Algoma programs.

### Application

This policy applies to all employees, students, community members and any others persons engaged in business with Child care Algoma.

### Procedures

As required by the Child Care and Early Years Act, Child Care Algoma must separate children of ill health and contact parents/guardians to take the child home.

When children are ill and/or exhibit COVID-19 related symptoms, child care employees will ensure the following:

- Ill children will be separated into the designated exclusion room or space, and be removed from other children to be monitored by a staff until parent/guardian pick up
- Symptoms of illness will be recorded in the child's daily record and in a daily log as per the CCEYA
- The parent/guardian of the ill child will be notified to take them home; or
- If it appears that the child requires immediate medical attention, the child will be taken to the hospital by ambulance and examined by a legally qualified medical practitioner or a nurse registered under the Health Disciplines Act. R.R.O. 1990, Reg. 262, s. 34 (3).

If you suspect a child has symptoms of a reportable communicable disease, please report these immediately to Algoma Public Health. (705) 759-5286

### When to exclude

Child care must exclude a sick child or staff when the child or staff has any sign(s) and/or any symptom(s) that have been determined to be excluded by the ongoing updated COVID-19 screening tool for schools and child care settings.

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- Whether a child is excluded from child care is determined by their responses to the COVID-19 screening tool for schools and child care settings from the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Education. The most updated version of this document (subject to change) is available on our website [www.childcarealgoma.ca](http://www.childcarealgoma.ca).
- Whether a staff or essential visitor is able to attend work or enter a CCA building is determined by their responses to the COVID-19 screening tool for schools and child care settings from the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Education. The most updated version of this document (subject to change) is available on our website [www.childcarealgoma.ca](http://www.childcarealgoma.ca).

### How to exclude

- Supervise the child in a designated room or designated space with hand washing available or hand sanitizer if hand washing sink and supplies not available
- Notify parents/caregivers of the sick child for pick up
- Notify parents/caregivers to follow the guidance in the COVID-19 screening tool for schools and child care settings from the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Education. The most updated version of this document (subject to change) is available on our website [www.childcarealgoma.ca](http://www.childcarealgoma.ca)
- Only one staff should be in the designated room and attempt physical distancing.
- Staff must wear a medical mask while they are with a child in isolation. Hands must be washed before putting on PPE and after taking off. A garbage can and Kleenex needs to be available
- Increase ventilation in the designated exclusion room if possible (e.g., open windows)
- Clean and disinfect the area immediately after the child has been sent home
- If staff member was unable to practice physical distancing with the ill child, they must change their clothes before returning to the classroom/cohort.
- Staff who are ill must stay home or if they become ill at the centre must put on a mask and leave immediately. They will follow the guidance in the COVID-19 screening for schools and child care settings from the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Education. The most updated version of this document (subject to change) is available on our website [www.childcarealgoma.ca](http://www.childcarealgoma.ca).

### Returning to the centre after exclusion:

Whether a child can return to child care is determined by the guidance in the COVID-19 screening tool for schools and child care settings from the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Education. The most updated version of this document (subject to change) is available on our website [www.childcarealgoma.ca](http://www.childcarealgoma.ca).

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- Whether a staff or essential visitor is able to return to work or enter a CCA building is determined by the guidance in the COVID-19 Screening tool for schools and child care settings from the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Education. The most updated version of this document (subject to change) is available on our website [www.childcarealgoma.ca](http://www.childcarealgoma.ca).

### Surveillance

Employees must continuously monitor for signs and symptoms of illness in both children and staff. Ongoing and enhanced surveillance is essential in preventing and reducing the risk of disease transmission, specifically COVID-19, in the child care centre.

Ensure surveillance includes the following:

- Staff, families and children need to complete the COVID-19 Screening tool for schools and child care settings from the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Education before working for or attending Child Care Algoma Programs. The most updated version of this document (subject to change) is available on our website [www.childcarealgoma.ca](http://www.childcarealgoma.ca).
- Record symptoms of illness for each child including signs or complaints the child may describe (e.g., sore throat, stomach ache, head ache etc.).
- Record the date and time that the symptoms occur
- Record the room the child attends (e.g., room number/description)
- Record attendances and absences
- Report unusual clusters of illness to Algoma Public Health.

### Reporting Procedure

Child Care Algoma will closely monitor absenteeism rates in all of our Programs. Given the widespread transmission of the Omicron variant and changes to the provincial testing approach, Child Care Algoma will no longer be routinely notifying families of positive cases or if an individual is absent due to symptoms associated with COVID-19.

If absenteeism rises to a defined level in a child care program (approximately 30% above baseline), Child Care Algoma will send notification to families and staff in the affected child care setting, signed by the local medical officer of health, with information on public health measures for families and staff to follow (e.g., monitoring of COVID-19 symptoms).

### Policy and Procedure Review

This policy and procedure will be reviewed and signed off by all employees and students prior to commencing employment/unpaid placement in a Child Care Algoma program and annually thereafter and at any time where a change is made.