

CHAPTER TWO: HEALTH AND SAFETY

Approval Date: June 2020 Revision Date: October 2020 Revision Date: February 2021 Revision Date: April 2021 Revision Date: June 2021 Revision Date: June 18, 2021 Revision Date: August 2021 Revision Date: September 2021 Revision Date: October 2021 Revision Date: October 19, 2021 Revision Date: December 2021 Revision Date: December 17, 2021 Revision Date: January 2022 Revision Date: March 2022	Policy: PANDEMIC PLANNING COVID-19 – HEALTH AND ILLNESS PROTOCOL
	Policy Number: 2.5.6

Health and Illness Protocol for COVID-19 Response Plan

To manage the risk of spreading illness within a child care centre, Algoma Public Health has set out a comprehensive cleaning and sanitation routine when necessary and personal health care practices including but not limited to proper and frequent hand hygiene, removal of sensory tables when necessary and toys and furniture that cannot be cleaned and disinfected, and increased frequency of cleaning and disinfecting when necessary.

ALL CHILDREN/FAMILIES AND STAFF must screen themselves **DAILY BEFORE ARRIVAL** to the child care centre. In addition to daily screening, all children will be monitored throughout the day for emerging signs and symptoms of illness. 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** (subject to change) which is 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. Parents must follow updated screening guidelines to determine whether they need to keep their child(ren) home from the program.

- Children will also be excluded for symptoms outside of the COVID-19 screening tool. At a minimum, these individuals are to stay home from child care if they are sick, and will be excluded from child care until symptoms are improving for at least 24 hours (48hr symptom free for GI Symptoms) and they are well enough to participate (for pink eye, Child Care Algoma will follow exclusion guidelines which is exclude until 24 hours after prescribed antibiotic has been started and drainage has stopped).

Whether a staff is able to attend work 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. Staff and essential visitors must follow the updated screening guidelines to determine whether they need to stay home.

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- Staff will also be excluded for symptoms outside of the COVID-19 screening tool. At a minimum, these individuals are to stay home from work if they are sick, and will not be able to return to work until symptoms are improving for at least 24 hours (48hr symptom free for GI Symptoms) and they are well enough to participate (for pink eye, Child Care Algoma will follow exclusion guidelines which is exclude until 24 hours after prescribed antibiotic has been started and drainage has stopped).

If a child(ren) experiences any of the signs and symptoms listed above while at the child care program, staff will contact parents to pick up their child **immediately**. While their child(ren) waits for their parent or designate to arrive, the child will be separated from the other children.

Parents and staff and essential visitors will follow the direction from the screening questions from the Ministry and the documents from Algoma Public Health found on our website at www.childcarealgoma.ca

Please note if a child or staff (or household member) is planning to travel or has travelled outside the Canada they **must** follow the guidelines in the most up to date screening questions from the Ministry found on our website. The Child/Student/Families/Staff must follow any and all federal guidelines related to COVID-19 including quarantine and testing after returning from international travel if applicable.

Any travel within Canada and Ontario will be at the discretion of Child Care Algoma in consultation with Algoma Public Health if a staff or child will be ineligible to immediately return to the Program, and if a self-isolation period is required, if the area visited had a known outbreak.

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Rapid Antigen Tests

Rapid Antigen Tests or RATs (contingent on provincial testing supply), will be offered to support symptomatic testing for staff and children. As available, staff and children will receive RATs following an unplanned absence or where a child/staff is sent home due to onset of symptoms.

In regards to Rapid Antigen Test results please 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.childcarealgonia.ca.

- A positive RAT is highly indicative that the individual has COVID-19. A positive RAT does NOT need to be confirmed with a PCR test.
- Positive RATs do NOT need to be reported to the public health unit, school or child care.

Note: There is no requirement for parent(s)/guardian(s) to report their child's PCR/RAT results to the school or child care as part of absence reporting.

Staff and families can also access RATs via participating community locations. Please see <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/rapid-test-locator> for specific locations.