

CHAPTER TWO: HEALTH AND SAFETY

Approval Date: June 2020 Revision Date: October 2020 Revision Date: February 2021 Revision Date: April 2021	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 and personal health care practices including but not limited to proper and frequent hand hygiene, removal of sensory tables and toys and furniture that cannot be cleaned and disinfected, and increased frequency of cleaning and disinfecting. Algoma Public Health also requires daily screening of all individuals entering the child care setting to ensure the safety of the program.

ALL CHILDREN AND STAFF must be screened **DAILY UPON ARRIVAL** to the child care centre, which *may* include temperature checks. In addition to daily screening, all children will be monitored throughout the day for emerging signs and symptoms of illness.

Parents must keep their child(ren) home from the program if their child has any of the following signs and symptoms:

- If the **child** has any of the following symptoms (subject to change): fever and/or chills (37.8C/100.0F or greater), cough or barking cough (not related to other known causes or conditions e.g. asthma, reactive airway), shortness of breath (not related to other known causes or conditions), decreased or loss of sense of taste or smell, sore throat or difficulty swallowing, runny or stuffy/congested nose, headache, nausea, vomiting and/or diarrhea, extreme tiredness or muscle aches; without other known cause as per Appendices III in Policy 2.5.6 (subject to change).
- Whether a child is excluded from child care is determined by their responses to the **COVID-19 Screening Tool for Children in Child Care** as per Appendices III in Policy 2.5.6 (subject to change) which is from the COVID-19 school and child care screening tool 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.
- Children cannot return to the Program for 14 days upon arrival if their child or a household member has travelled outside of Canada, to a high risk area in Canada, or to a red or grey zone in Ontario in the past 14 days, if their child has been identified as a close contact of someone who is confirmed as having COVID-19 by a public health unit (or from the COVID Alert app if they have their own phone), or if their child has been directed by a health provider including a public health official to isolate, has a confirmed case of COVID-19, or if a child(ren) experiences any of the signs and symptoms listed above.

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Staff and/or essential visitors must not attend work or enter a CCA building if they have any of the following symptoms (subject to change):

- Fever and/or chills, cough or barking cough (croup), shortness of breath, decrease or loss of taste or smell, sore throat, difficulty swallowing, runny or stuffy/congested nose, pink eye, headache that is unusual or long lasting, digestive issues like nausea/vomiting, diarrhea, stomach pain, muscle aches that are unusual or long lasting, extreme tiredness that is unusual, falling down often for older people; without other known cause as per Appendices II in Policy 2.5.6 (subject to change). 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 employees and essential visitors in 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 cannot return to work for 14 days upon arrival if they or a household member have travelled outside of Canada, to a high risk area in Canada, or to a red or grey zone in Ontario in the last 14 days, if in the last 14 days a public health unit identified them as a close contact of someone who currently has COVID-19, if a doctor, health care provider, or public health unit told them they should currently be isolating (staying at home), or if in the last 14 days they have received a COVID Alert exposure notification on their cell phone, or if they have a confirmed case of COVID-19.

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. A symptomatic child participating in a child care program should be assessed by the COVID-19 Assessment Centre to determine if they may be exposed to COVID-19. You must make an appointment at an assessment centre; **(705)759-3434 ext. 7152**. Parents/guardians of the child must notify the assessment centre the child was receiving care at a child care centre when they make the appointment. Children can return to child care when the test is confirmed negative and are symptom free for at least 24 hours. Children with symptoms who do not get tested must be excluded from child care for 10 days after the onset of symptoms and be 24 hours symptom free. Staff and children exposed to a confirmed case of COVID-19 must be excluded for 14 days. Please note if a child or staff is planning to travel or has travelled outside the Canada they **must** isolate for the mandatory 14 days, if they travel within Canada they must inform Child Care Algoma of the travel location, and mode of transportation and await further instructions. Any travel within Canada and Ontario will be at the discretion of Child Care Algoma in consultation with Algoma Public Health if your child will be ineligible to return to their child care space, and if a 14 day self-isolation or a negative COVID-19 test result is required, if the area visited had a known outbreak.

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To protect the health of all individuals at the child care centre, staff will support the arrival and pickup routine for families. Upon arrival, once a child(ren) has completed active screening and are deemed able to enter the centre, staff will escort the child(ren) to the appropriate program room. Parent(s)/caregiver(s) are discouraged from entering the centre. Pick-up and drop-off of child(ren) will occur outside the child care setting unless it is determined that there is a need for the parent(s)/caregiver(s) to enter the setting.

As a Parent/Guardian responsible for my child(ren)'s child care placement, I agree to the following:

I have read and understood the above information.

I agree to all screening measures.

I agree to exclude ALL of my children from child care services immediately upon observing any of the above signs or symptoms or illness in my child(ren) until Algoma Public Health has determined my child(ren) can return to the program.

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APPENDICES I

ALL STAFF DAILY

- WASH HANDS WITH SANITIZER
- FILL OUT SURVEILLANCE FORM

YOU MAY NEED TO WEAR A MASK AND EYE PROTECTION – PLEASE REFER TO POLICY

- IF YOU HAVE ANSWERED YES TO ANY SCREENING QUESTIONS PLEASE INFORM YOUR SITE SUPERVISOR – YOU WILL NEED TO GO HOME.

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APPENDICES II

COVID-19 Screening Tool for Employees and Essential Visitors in Child Care Settings

(Subject to change)

Screening Questions

1. In the last 14 days, have you or anyone you live with travelled outside of the Algoma District? Have you travelled to a red or grey zone? In a province wide lockdown all Ontario is in a grey zone.

If exempt from quarantine requirements (for example, an essential worker who crosses the Canada-US border regularly for work), select “No.”

Yes No

2. Has a doctor, health care provider, or public health unit told you that you should currently be isolating (staying at home)? This can be because of an outbreak or contact tracing.

Yes No

3. In the last 14 days, have you been identified as a “close contact” of someone who currently has COVID-19?

Yes No

4. In the last 14 days, have you received a COVID Alert exposure notification on your cell phone? If you already went for a test and got a negative result, select “No.”

Yes No

5. Are you currently experiencing any of these symptoms? Choose any/all that are new, worsening, and not related to other known causes or conditions you already have.

Fever and/or chills

Temperature of 37.8 degrees Celsius/100 degrees Fahrenheit or higher

Yes

No

Cough or barking cough (croup)

Continuous, more than usual, making a whistling noise when breathing (not related to asthma, post-infectious reactive airways, COPD, or other known causes or conditions you already have)

Yes

No

Shortness of breath

Out of breath, unable to breathe deeply (not related to asthma or other known causes or conditions you already have)

Yes

No

Decrease or loss of taste or smell

Not related to seasonal allergies, neurological disorders, or other known causes or conditions you already have

Yes

No

Sore throat

Not related to seasonal allergies, acid reflux, or other known causes or conditions you already have

Yes

No

Difficulty swallowing

Painful swallowing (not related to other known causes or conditions you already have)

Yes

No

Runny or stuffy/congested nose

Not related to seasonal allergies, being outside in cold weather or other known causes or conditions you already have

Yes

No

Pink eye

Conjunctivitis (not related to reoccurring styes or other known causes or conditions you already have)

Yes

No

Headache

Unusual, long-lasting (not related to tension-type headaches, chronic migraines, or other known causes or conditions you already have)

Yes

No

Digestive issues like nausea/vomiting, diarrhea, stomach pain

Not related to irritable bowel syndrome, menstrual cramps, or other known causes or conditions you already have

Yes

No

Muscle aches

Unusual, long lasting (not related to a sudden injury, fibromyalgia, or other known causes or conditions you already have)

Yes

No

Extreme tiredness

Unusual, fatigue, lack of energy (not related to depression, insomnia, thyroid dysfunction, or other known causes or conditions you already have)

Yes

No

Falling down often

For older people

Yes

No

6. Is anyone you live with currently experiencing any new COVID-19 symptoms and/or waiting for test results after experiencing symptoms? Yes No

Results of screening questions

If you answered “YES” to question 1 or 3 do not go to child care.

- If you answered “YES” to question 1, and you or a household member have travelled outside of Canada you must isolate (stay home) for 14 days and not leave except to get tested or for a medical emergency. *Exemptions from quarantine requirements must be discussed with child care.*
- If you answered “YES” to question 1, and you or a household member have travelled outside the Algoma District to a red or grey zone (*during a Province wide lock down the entire Province is considered a grey zone*) you cannot return to the Program for 14 days. *Essential travel (deemed essential by Algoma Public Health through Child Care Algoma) is examined on an individual basis. Please contact Child Care Algoma and they will provide further direction in partnership with Algoma Public Health.*
- If you answered “YES” to question 3, talk with a doctor/health care provider to get advice or an assessment, including if you need a COVID-19 test. You can only return to child care after 14 days, even if you get a negative test result. *Please let Child Care Algoma know if you or a household member have been deemed a close contact and they will provide further direction in partnership with Algoma Public Health.*
- If you develop symptoms, contact your local public health unit or doctor/health care provider for more advice.
- Contact your child care provider to let them know about this result.

If you answered “YES” to question 2 do not go to child care.

- You must self-isolate (stay home) and not leave except for a medical emergency.
 - Follow the advice of public health. You can return to school/child care after you are cleared by your local public health unit. *Please let Child Care Algoma know if you or a household member have been told by a doctor, health care provider, or public health unit that you should currently be isolating (staying at home) and they will provide further direction in partnership with Algoma Public Health*
 - If you develop symptoms, contact your local public health unit or doctor/health care provider for more advice.
- Ask your child care for more information.
- Contact your child care provider to let them know about this result.

If you answered “YES” to question 4 do not go to child care.

- You must self-isolate (stay home) and not leave except for a medical emergency.
- Visit an assessment centre to get a COVID-19 test.
- If you test negative (you do not have the virus), you can return to school/child care.
- If you test positive (you have the virus), you can return only after you are cleared by your local public health unit.
- If you develop symptoms, contact your local public health unit or doctor/health care provider for more advice.
- Contact your child care provider to let them know about this result. *Please let Child Care Algoma know if you or a household member have received a COVID Alert exposure notification on your cell phone and they will provide further direction in partnership with Algoma Public Health*

If you answered “YES” to any of the symptoms included under question 5 or question 6 do not go to child care.

- You and your entire household must self-isolate (stay home) and not leave except to get tested or for a medical emergency.
- If you answered “YES” to question 5, talk with a doctor/health care provider to get advice or an assessment, including if you need a COVID-19 test.
- If you answered “YES” to question 6, you can return to child care after the person gets a negative COVID-19 test result, or is cleared by your local public health unit, or is diagnosed with another illness.
- Other people in your household must stay at home until you or the individual gets a negative COVID-19 test result, or are cleared by your local public health unit, or are diagnosed with another illness.
- Contact your child care provider to let them know about this result.

If you answered “NO” to all questions, you can go to child care because you seem to be healthy and have not been exposed to COVID-19. Follow your child care provider’s established process for letting staff know about this result (if applicable).

Please note these questions are from the Ontario Ministry of Health and Ministry of Education COVID-19 screening tool for employees and essential visitors in schools and child care settings Version 4: February 24, 2021 with an update to Question #1 to screen for travel outside of the Algoma District with support from Algoma Public Health.

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APPENDICES III

COVID-19 Screening Tool for Children in Child Care

Screening Questions (*Subject to change*)

1. In the last 14 days, has the child or anyone they live with travelled outside of the Algoma District? Have they travelled to a red or grey zone? *In a province wide lockdown all Ontario is in a grey zone.*

If exempt from quarantine requirements (for example, an essential worker who crosses the Canada-US border regularly for work), select “No.”

Yes No

2. Has a doctor, health care provider, or public health unit told you that the child should currently be isolating (staying at home)? *This can be because of an outbreak or contact tracing.*

Yes No

3. In the last 14 days, has the child been identified as a “close contact” of someone who currently has COVID-19? Yes No

4. In the last 14 days, has the child received a COVID Alert exposure notification on their cell phone?

If they already went for a test and got a negative result, select “No.”

Yes No

5. Is the child currently experiencing any of these symptoms? *Choose any/all that are new, worsening, and not related to other known causes or conditions they already have.*

Fever and/or chills

Temperature of 37.8 degrees Celsius/100 degrees Fahrenheit or higher	Yes	No
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Cough or barking cough (croup)

Continuous, more than usual, making a whistling noise when breathing (not related to asthma, post-infectious reactive airways, COPD, or other known causes or conditions they already have)	Yes	No
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Shortness of breath

Out of breath, unable to breathe deeply (not related to asthma or other known causes or conditions they already have)

Yes

No

Decrease or loss of taste or smell

Not related to seasonal allergies, neurological disorders, or other known causes or conditions they already have

Yes

No

Sore throat or difficulty swallowing

Painful swallowing (not related to seasonal allergies, acid reflux, or other known causes or conditions they already have)

Yes

No

Runny or stuffy/congested nose

Not related to seasonal allergies, being outside in cold weather or other known causes or conditions they already have

Yes

No

Headache

Unusual, long-lasting (not related to tension-type headaches, chronic migraines, or other known causes or conditions they already have)

Yes

No

Nausea, vomiting and/or diarrhea

Not related to irritable bowel syndrome, anxiety, menstrual cramps, or other known causes or conditions they already have

Yes

No

Extreme tiredness or muscle aches

Unusual, fatigue, lack of energy, poor feeding in infants (not related to depression, insomnia, thyroid dysfunction, sudden injury or other known causes or conditions they already have)

Yes

No

6. Is someone that the child lives with currently experiencing any new COVID-19 symptoms and/or waiting for test results after experiencing symptoms?

Yes No

Results of screening questions

If you answered “YES” to question 1 or 3 do not go to child care.

- **If you answered “YES” to question 1**, and the child or a household member have travelled outside of Canada you must isolate (stay home) for 14 days and not leave except to get tested or for a medical emergency. *Exemptions from quarantine requirements must be discussed with child care.*
- **If you answered “YES” to question 1**, and the child or a household member have travelled outside the Algoma District to a red or grey zone (*during a Province wide lock down the entire Province is considered a grey zone*) they cannot return to the Program for 14 days. *Essential travel (deemed essential by Algoma Public Health through Child Care Algoma) is examined on an individual basis. Please contact Child Care Algoma and they will provide further direction in partnership with Algoma Public Health.*
- **If you answered “YES” to question 3**, talk with a doctor/health care provider to get advice or an assessment, including if they need a COVID-19 test. The child can only return to child care after 14 days, even if they get a negative test result. *Please let Child Care Algoma know if the child or a household member have been deemed a close contact and they will provide further direction in partnership with Algoma Public Health.*
- If they develop symptoms or test positive, contact your local public health unit or doctor/health care provider for more advice.
- Contact your child care provider to let them know about this result.

If you answered “YES” to question 2 do not go to child care.

- The child must self-isolate (stay home) and not leave except for a medical emergency.
 - Follow the advice of public health. The child can return to school/child care after they are cleared by your local public health unit. *Please let Child Care Algoma know if the child or a household member have been told by a doctor, health care provider, or public health unit that they should currently be isolating (staying at home) and they will provide further direction in partnership with Algoma Public Health*
 - If they develop symptoms, contact your local public health unit or doctor/health care provider for more advice.
- Ask your child care for more information.
- Contact your child care provider to let them know about this result.

If you answered “YES” to question 4 do not go to child care.

- The child must self-isolate (stay home) and not leave except for a medical emergency.
- Visit an assessment centre to get a COVID-19 test.
- If they test negative (they do not have the virus), they can return to child care.
- If they test positive (they have the virus), they can return only after they are cleared by your local public health unit.
- If they develop symptoms, contact your local public health unit or doctor/health care provider for more advice.
- Contact your child care provider to let them know about this result. *Please let Child Care Algoma know if the child or a household member have received a COVID Alert exposure notification on their cell phone and they will provide further direction in partnership with Algoma Public Health*

If you answered “YES” to any of the symptoms included under question 5 or question 6 do not go to child care.

- The child and their entire household must self-isolate (stay home) and not leave except to get tested or for a medical emergency.
- If you answered “YES” to question 5, talk with a doctor/health care provider to get advice or an assessment, including if the child needs a COVID-19 test.
- If you answered “YES” to question 6, the child can return to child care after the individual gets a negative COVID-19 test result, or is cleared by your local public health unit, or is diagnosed with another illness.
- Siblings and other people in your household must stay at home until the child showing symptoms or individual tests negative or is cleared by your local public health unit, or is diagnosed with another illness.
- Contact your child care provider to let them know about this result.

If you answered “NO” to all questions, your child can go to child care because they seem to be healthy and have not been exposed to COVID-19. Follow your child care provider’s established process for letting staff know about this result (if applicable).

Please note these questions are from the Ontario Ministry of Health and Ministry of Education COVID-19 school and child care screening Version 4: February 24, 2021 with an update to Question #1 to screen for travel outside of the Algoma District with support from Algoma Public Health.