

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	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 the child(ren) or a household member has travelled outside of Canada, if the 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, 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 either online <https://www.sah.on.ca/patients/covid-19-assessment-centre> or by phone (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 (or household member) is planning to travel or has travelled outside the Canada they **must** isolate for the mandatory 14 days upon returning.

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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 14 day self-isolation or a negative COVID-19 test result is required, if the area visited had a known outbreak.

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 travelled outside of Canada?

If exempt from federal 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

	Yes	No
Temperature of 37.8 degrees Celsius/100 degrees Fahrenheit or higher		

Cough or barking cough (croup)

	Yes	No
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)		

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

If you received a COVID-19 vaccination in the last 48 hours and are experiencing a mild headache that only began after vaccination, select “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 Yes No

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

If you received a COVID-19 vaccination in the last 48 hours and are experiencing mild muscle aches/joint pain that only began after vaccination, select “No”.

Extreme tiredness Yes No

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

If you received a COVID-19 vaccination in the last 48 hours and are experiencing mild fatigue that only began after vaccination, select “No”.

Falling down often Yes No

For older people

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

If the individual experiencing symptoms received a COVID-19 vaccination in the last 48 hours and is experiencing mild headache, fatigue, muscle aches, and/or joint pain that only began after vaccination, select “No”.

Results of screening questions

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

- You must isolate (stay home) for 14 days and not leave except to get tested or for a medical emergency.
- If you answered “YES” to **question 1**, follow the advice of public health. You can return to school/child care after you are cleared by your local public health unit.
- 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 return to school/child care only after 14 days, even if you get a negative test result.
- If you live in certain areas of the province, like Toronto or Peel, other people in your household must stay at home for 14 days. This is because of local risk factors.
- If you live in other areas of Ontario, other people in your household can go to school, child care or work, but must not leave the home for other non-essential reasons for 14 days. Ask your school/child care for more information.
- If you develop symptoms, contact your local public health unit or doctor/health care provider for more advice.
- Contact your school/child care provider to let them know about this result

If you answered “YES” to question 2 do not go to school or 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.
- If you develop symptoms, contact your local public health unit or doctor/health care provider for more advice.
- If you live in certain areas of the province, like Toronto or Peel, other people in your household must stay at home. This is because of local risk factors.
- If you live in other areas of Ontario, other people in your household can go to school, child care or work, but must not leave the home for other non-essential reasons. Ask your school/child care for more information.
- Contact your school/child care provider to let them know about this result.

If you answered “YES” to question 4 do not go to school or 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.
- Other people in your household can go to school, child care or work, but must not leave the home for other, non-essential reasons until you test negative or are cleared by your local public health unit.
- Contact your school/child care provider to let them know about this result

If you answered “YES” to any of the symptoms included under question 5 or “YES” to question 6, do not go to school or 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 school/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 other illness.
- Contact your school/child care provider to let them know about this result.

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

If you have received a COVID-19 vaccination in the last 48 hours and you have mild headache, fatigue, muscle aches and/or joint pain that only began after immunization, and no other symptoms, you are to wear a surgical/procedure mask for your entire time at work. Your mask may only be removed to consume food or drink and you must remain at least two metres away from others when your mask has been removed. If the symptoms worsen, continue past 48 hours, or if you develop other symptoms, you should leave work immediately to self-isolate and seek COVID-19 testing.

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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 Canada?

If exempt from federal quarantine requirements, 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

If the student/child received a COVID-19 vaccination in the last 48 hours and is experiencing a mild headache that only began after vaccination, select “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

If the student/child received a COVID-19 vaccination in the last 48 hours and is experiencing mild fatigue and/or mild muscle aches/joint pain that only began after vaccination, select “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

If the individual experiencing symptoms received a COVID-19 vaccination in the last 48 hours and is experiencing mild headache, fatigue, muscle aches, and/or joint pain that only began after vaccination, select “No”.

Results of screening questions

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

- The student/child must self-isolate (stay home) for 14 days and not leave except to get tested or for a medical emergency.
- If you answered “YES” to **question 1**, follow the advice of public health. The student/child can return to school/child care after they are cleared by your local public health unit.
- 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 student/child can return to school/child care only after 14 days, even if they get a negative test result.
- If you live in certain areas of the province, like Toronto or Peel, siblings and other people in your household must stay at home for 14 days. This is because of local risk factors.
- If you live in other areas of Ontario, siblings and other people in your household can go to school, child care or work, but must not leave the home for other non-essential reasons. Ask your school/child care for more information.
- If they develop symptoms or test positive, contact your local public health unit or doctor/health care provider for more advice.
- Contact your school/child care provider to let them know about this result.

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

- The student/child must self-isolate (stay home) and not leave except for a medical emergency.
- Follow the advice of public health. The student/child can return to school/child care 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.
- If you live in certain areas of the province, like Toronto or Peel, siblings and other people in your household must stay at home. This is because of local risk factors.
- If you live in other areas of Ontario, siblings and other people in your household can go to school, child care or work, but must not leave the home for other non-essential reasons. Ask your school/child care for more information.
- Contact your school/child care provider to let them know about this result.

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

- The student/child must self-isolate (stay home) and not leave except for a medical emergency.
- Visit an assessment centre to get them a COVID-19 test.
- If they test negative (they do not have the virus), they can return to school/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.
- Siblings or other people in your household can go to school, child care or work, but must not

leave the home for other, non-essential reasons until the individual who got the COVID alert tests negative, or is cleared by your local public health unit.

- Contact your school/child care provider to let them know about this result

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

- The student/child must 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 student/child need a COVID-19 test.
- If you answered “YES” to question 6, the student/child can return to school or 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 or other people in your household must stay at home until the student/child showing symptoms or individual tests negative, or is cleared by your public health unit, or is diagnosed with another illness.
- Contact your school/child care provider to let them know about this result.

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

If the student/child received a COVID-19 vaccination in the last 48 hours and has mild headache, fatigue, muscle aches and/or joint pain that only began after immunization, and no other symptoms, they are to wear a properly fitted mask for their entire time at school/child care. Their mask may only be removed to consume food or drink and they must remain at least two metres away from others when their mask has been removed. If the symptoms worsen, continue past 48 hours, or if they develop other symptoms, they should leave school/child care immediately to self-isolate and seek COVID-19 testing. If the symptoms worsen, continue past 48 hours, or if they develop other symptoms, they should leave school/child care immediately to self-isolate and seek COVID-19 testing.