

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	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 screened symptoms (subject to change): fever and/or chills (37.8C/100.0F or greater), cough or barking cough (croup), shortness of breath, decrease or loss of taste or smell, nausea, vomiting and/or diarrhea (diarrhea is a bowel movement that has no formation); 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 School and Child Care Settings** 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 will also be excluded for symptoms outside of the COVID-19 screening tool (including but not limited to sore throat, runny nose [white or coloured discharge; not related to immediate outdoor play, allergies or other medical condition], stuffy nose, abdominal pain, pink eye, headache, or lack of appetite) 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).

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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 screened symptoms (subject to change):

- Fever and/or chills, cough or barking cough (croup), shortness of breath, decrease or loss of taste or smell, tiredness, muscle aches; 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 will also be excluded for symptoms outside of the COVID-19 screening tool (including but not limited to sore throat, runny nose, stuffy nose, abdominal pain, pink eye, headache, or lack of appetite, and vomit/nausea/diarrhea) 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. 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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Unvaccinated children less than 12 years of age who enter Canada with their fully vaccinated parent/guardian may not be required to quarantine upon entering Canada if both the child and the parents/guardian meet certain requirements under the Quarantine Act. However, they will be directed not to attend school, camp or daycare for 14 days. All individuals who enter Canada, including those that may have shared custody agreements, must follow the directions provided to them at the border upon arrival to the country

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 Schools and Child Care Settings

(Subject to change)

Screening Questions

1. Are you currently experiencing any of these symptoms? The symptoms listed are the symptoms most commonly associated with COVID-19. Our guidelines for children and adults continue to evolve as we learn more about COVID-19, how it spreads, and how it affects people in different ways. *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 and/or chills		

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, or other known causes or conditions you already have)		

Shortness of breath

	Yes	No
Out of breath, unable to breathe deeply (not related to asthma or other known causes or conditions you already have)		

Decrease or loss of taste or smell

	Yes	No
Not related to seasonal allergies, neurological disorders, or other known causes or conditions you already have		

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.”

Muscle aches

Unexplained, unusual, or long lasting (not related to a sudden injury, fibromyalgia, 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 mild fatigue that only began after vaccination, select “No.”

2. Did you receive your final (or second in a two-dose series) COVID-19 vaccination dose more than 14 days ago, or have you tested positive for COVID-19 in the last 90 days and have since been cleared? If YES, skip questions 3, 4, 5. Yes No

3. Is anyone you live with currently experiencing any new COVID-19 symptoms and/or waiting for test results after experiencing symptoms?

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.” Yes No

4. In the last 10 days, have you been identified as a “close contact” of someone who currently has COVID-19? If public health has advised you that you do not need to self-isolate, select “No.” Yes No

5. In the last 10 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

6. In the last 14 days, have you travelled outside of Canada and been advised to quarantine as per the federal quarantine requirements? Yes No

7. 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

8. In the last 10 days, have you tested positive on a rapid antigen test or a home-based self-testing kit? If you have since tested negative on a lab-based PCR test, select “No.” Yes No

Results of screening questions

If you answered “YES” to any of the symptoms included under question 1, do not go to school or child care.

- You must isolate (stay home) and should not leave except to get tested or for a medical emergency.
- Talk with a doctor/health care provider to get advice or an assessment, including if you need a COVID-19 test.
Other people in your household must stay at home until you test negative, or are cleared by your public health unit, or are diagnosed with another illness. Household members who are fully immunized or previously positive for COVID-19 in the last 90 days and have since been cleared are not required to stay home.
- Contact your school/child care provider to let them know about this result.

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

- You must isolate (stay home) and should not leave except to get tested or for a medical emergency.
- You can return to school or child care after the individual with symptoms tests negative and is cleared by your local 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 “YES” to question 4, do not go to school or child care.

- You must isolate (stay home) for 10 days and not leave except to get tested or for a medical emergency.
- 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 school/child care after 10 days, even if you get a negative test result, as long as you do not develop any symptoms.
Other people in your household can go to school, child care or work, but must not leave the home for other non-essential reasons. Household members who are fully immunized or previously positive for COVID-19 in the last 90 days and have since been cleared are not required to stay home.
- If you 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 5, do not go to school or child care.

- You must isolate (stay home) and should not leave except to get tested or 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 need to continue isolating and 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.
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. Household members who are fully immunized or previously positive for COVID-19 in the last 90 days and have since been cleared are not required to stay home.

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

If you answered “YES” to question 6, 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.
- Follow the advice of public health. You can return to school/child care after you have completed your federal quarantine requirement.
- If you develop symptoms and/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 7, do not go to school or child care.

- You must isolate (stay home) and should not leave except to get tested or 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.

Other people in your household must stay at home until you test negative, or are cleared by your public health unit. Household members who are fully immunized or previously positive for COVID-19 in the last 90 days and have since been cleared are not required to stay home.

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

If you answered “YES” to question 8, do not go to school or child care.

- You must isolate (stay home) and should not leave except to get tested or 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 need to continue isolating and 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 must isolate until you test negative on a PCR test or are cleared by your local public health unit. Household members who are fully immunized or previously positive for COVID-19 in the last 90 days and have since been cleared are not required to isolate.
- Contact your school/child care provider to let them know about this result

If you answered “NO” to all questions, you may go to school/child care. Follow your school/child care provider’s established process for letting them know about this result.

Note: post immunization symptoms

- If you have received a COVID-19 vaccination in the last 48 hours and have mild 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 (indoors and outdoors).
- 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.

As per regular protocols, all sick individuals with any symptoms of illness should stay home, and seek assessment from their regular health care provider if required. Individuals with severe symptoms requiring emergency care should go to their nearest emergency department. If an individual develops symptoms outside of the list above, the Public Health Unit may recommend other measures including testing based on an assessment of the individual's symptoms and exposure history.

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 1: August 26, 2021.

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APPENDICES III

COVID-19 Screening Tool for Children in School and Child Care Settings

Screening Questions *(Subject to change)*

1. Is the child currently experiencing any of these symptoms?

The symptoms listed here are the symptoms most commonly associated with COVID-19. Our guidelines for children and adults continue to evolve as we learn more about COVID-19, how it spreads, and how it affects people in different ways. *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 and/or chills	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, 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
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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
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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
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2. Did the student/child receive their final (or second in a two-dose series) COVID-19 vaccination dose more than 14 days ago, or have they tested positive for COVID-19 in the last 90 days and have since been cleared? If YES, skip questions 3, 4, 5. Yes No

3. Is someone that the student/child lives with currently experiencing any new COVID-19 symptoms and/or waiting for test results after experiencing symptoms? If the individual experiencing symptoms received a COVID-19 vaccination in the last 48 hours and is experiencing mild fatigue, muscle aches, and/or joint pain that only began after vaccination, select “No.” Yes No

4. In the last 10 days, has the student/child been identified as a “close contact” of someone who currently has COVID-19? If public health has advised you that you do not need to self-isolate, select “No.” Yes No

5. In the last 10 days, has the student/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

6. In the last 14 days, has the student/child travelled outside of Canada AND:

- **Been advised to quarantine as per the federal quarantine requirements AND/OR**
- **Is the student/child under the age of 12 and not fully vaccinated?**

If travel was solely due to across border custody arrangement, select “No.” Yes No

7. Has a doctor, health care provider, or public health unit told you that the student/child should currently be isolating (staying at home)?

This can be because of an outbreak or contact tracing. Yes No

8. In the last 10 days, has the student/child tested positive on a rapid antigen test or a home-based self-testing kit?

If the student/child has since tested negative on a lab-based PCR test, select “No.”

Yes No

Results of screening questions

If you answered “YES” to any of the symptoms included under question 1, 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.
- Talk with a doctor/health care provider to get advice or an assessment, including if the student/child needs a COVID-19 test.

Siblings or other people in your household must stay at home until the student/child showing symptoms tests negative, or is cleared by your public health unit, or is diagnosed with another illness. Household members who are fully vaccinated or previously positive for COVID-19 in the last 90 days and have since been cleared are not required to stay home.

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

If you answered “YES” to question 3, 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.
- The student/child can return to school or child care after the individual with symptoms tests negative, is cleared by your local 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 “YES” to question 4, do not go to school or child care.

- The student/child must isolate (stay home) for 10 days and not leave except to get tested or for a medical emergency.
- 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 only return to school/child care after 10 days, even if they get a negative test result, as long as they do not develop any symptoms.

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.

Household members who are fully vaccinated or previously positive for COVID-19 in the last 90 days and have since been cleared are not required to stay home.

- If the student/child develops symptoms or tests 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 5, 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.
- 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 need to continue isolating and 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. Household members who are fully vaccinated or

previously positive for COVID-19 in the last 90 days and have since been cleared are not required to stay home.

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

If you answered “YES” to question 6, do not go to school or child care.

- The student/child must follow federal guidelines for individuals who have travelled internationally, including not going to school/child care for 14 days after their arrival and getting tested as per federal requirements.
- If the student/child has been directed to quarantine, they must stay home for 14 days and not leave except to get tested or for a medical emergency. For more information on federal requirements for travelers, please see the Government of Canada’s website.
- If the student/child develops symptoms and/or tests 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 7, 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.
- 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 the student/child develops symptoms, contact your local public health unit or doctor/health care provider for more advice.

Siblings or other people in your household must stay at home until the student/child tests negative, or is cleared by your public health unit.
Household members who are fully vaccinated or previously positive for COVID-19 in the last 90 days and have since been cleared are not required to stay home.
- Contact your school/child care provider to let them know about this result.

If you answered “YES” to question 8, 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.
- 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 need to continue isolating and 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 must isolate until the individual who tested positive on the rapid antigen test or home-based self-testing kit tests negative on a PCR test or is cleared by the local public health unit. Household members who are fully vaccinated or previously positive for COVID-19 in the last 90 days and have since been cleared are not required to isolate.
- 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. Follow your school/child care provider’s established process for letting staff know about this result.

As per regular protocols, all sick individuals with any symptoms of illness should stay home, and seek assessment from their regular health care provider if required. Individuals with severe symptoms requiring emergency care should go to their nearest emergency department. If an individual develops symptoms outside of the list above, the Public Health Unit may recommend other measures including testing based on an assessment of the individual’s symptoms and exposure history.

Please note these questions are from the Ontario Ministry of Health and Ministry of Education COVID-19 school and child care screening Version 1: August 26, 2021