

CHAPTER TWO: HEALTH AND SAFETY

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| Approval Date: August 2020 | Policy: PANDEMIC PLANNING COVID-19 CONSIDERATION |
| | Policy Number: 2.5.7 |

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), Canada's Chief Public Health Officer, and the Ministry of Education regarding safety measures during COVID – 19 pandemic in all Child Care Algoma programs.

Application

This policy applies to all employees of Child Care Algoma.

Definitions

Physical distancing between children in a child care setting is difficult; Child Care Algoma encourages all staff to maintain a welcoming and caring environment for children. All health and Safety measures and directions will be followed during the COVID-19 pandemic

Procedures

Based on the guidance received from our local MOH and Canada's chief public health officer and the Ministry of Education:

Visitors:

- There should be no non-essential visitors in a program
- Use of video and telephone interviews should be used to interact with families where possible or for the registration of new families
- No students or volunteers are allowed in the program at this time.
- Parents/guardians are encouraged not to past the screening area.

Space Set-ups:

- Each cohort must have their own assigned indoor space
- When in the same common space (entrance/hallway) physical distancing of at least 2 meters must be maintained.

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- Where possible physical distancing between children of the same cohort is encouraged. Incorporating more individual activities, spreading children out into different areas particularly at meal and dressing time is encouraged.
- Increasing distances between cots and cribs is also encouraged. If not possible a toe/toe or head to toe placement should be used.

Staffing:

- Wherever possible staff should work at only one location
- Supervisors and/or designates should limit their movement between rooms, (medical masks and eye protection should be worn at all times when moving between rooms)
- Wherever possible supply staff should be assigned to a specific cohort
- At this time no group events (example: end of the year social) will be scheduled
- Staff shifts will be scheduled to reflect the need of the enhanced health and safety procedures/ enhanced cleaning and disinfecting procedure