

CHAPTER TWO: HEALTH AND SAFETY

Approval Date: June 2020 Revision Date: October 2020	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 (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, stuffy nose and/or runny nose, headache, nausea, vomiting and/or diarrhea, fatigue lethargy, muscle aches or malaise; 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 **Screening Questions for Child Care Centres – Children** 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.
- Parents must keep their child home if their child has travelled outside of Canada 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 while at the child care.

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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, 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; 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 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 must not attend work if they have travelled outside of Canada 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, s/he 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. This exclusion will also apply to children exposed to a confirmed case of COVID-19.

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 and inform Child Care Algoma of the travel location, and mode of transportation.

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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Policy Number: 2.5.6 (continued)

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 for Child Care Settings

(Subject to change)

Screening Questions (place an “X” in the appropriate column)

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

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 other known causes or
conditions (for example, asthma, post-
infectious reactive airways)

Yes

No

Shortness of breath

Out of breath, unable to breathe deeply,
not related to other known causes or
conditions (for example, asthma)

Yes

No

Sore throat

Not related to other known causes or
conditions (for example, seasonal
allergies, acid reflux)

Yes

No

Difficulty swallowing

Painful swallowing, not related to other
known causes or conditions

Yes

No

Runny or stuffy/congested nose

Not related to other known causes or
conditions (for example, seasonal
allergies, being outside in cold weather)

Yes

No

Pink eye	Yes	No
Conjunctivitis, not related to other known causes or conditions (for example, reoccurring styes)		
Headache that's unusual or long lasting	Yes	No
Not related to other known causes or conditions (for example, tension-type headaches, chronic migraines)		
Digestive issues like nausea/vomiting, diarrhea, stomach pain	Yes	No
Not related to other known causes or conditions (for example, irritable bowel syndrome, menstrual cramps)		
Muscle aches that are unusual or long lasting	Yes	No
Not related to other known causes or conditions (for example, a sudden injury, fibromyalgia)		
Extreme tiredness that is unusual	Yes	No
Fatigue, lack of energy, not related to other known causes or conditions (for example, depression, insomnia, thyroid dysfunction)		
Falling down often	Yes	No
For older people		

2. Have you travelled outside of Canada in the last 14 days? Yes No
3. In the last 14 days, has a public health unit identified you as a close contact of someone who currently has COVID-19? Yes No
4. Has a doctor, health care provider, or public health unit told you that you should currently be isolating (staying at home)? Yes No
5. In the last 14 days, have you received a COVID Alert exposure notification on your cell phone? Yes No

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

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Results of Screening Questions

If you answered “YES” to any of the symptoms included under question 1:

- Contact the school/child care to let them know about this result.
- You should 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 you need a COVID-19 test.
- Household members without symptoms may go to school/child care/work. Check your local public health unit’s website or call to see if they have different rules based on local risk.

If you answered “YES” to question 2 or 4:

- Contact the school/child care to let them know about this result.
- You should 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 only after you are cleared by your local public health unit.
- Household members without symptoms may go to school/child care/work. Check your local public health unit’s website or call to see if they have different rules based on local risk.

If you answered “YES” to question 3:

- Contact the school/child care to let them know about this result.
- You should isolate (stay home) for 14 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 return to school/child care only when you are cleared by your local public health unit, regardless of test result.

If you answered “YES” to question 5:

- Contact the school/child care to let them know about this result.
- You should isolate (stay home) for 14 days and not leave except to get tested or for a medical emergency.
- Visit an assessment centre to get a COVID-19 test. Talk with a doctor/health care provider for more

If you answered “NO” to all questions, you may go to school/child care.

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APPENDICES III

Screening Questions for Child Care Centres - Children

- Has your child travelled outside of Canada in the past 14 days?
- Is your child a confirmed case of COVID-19 or had close contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19?
- Has your child been directed by a health care provider including a public health official to isolate?
- Does your child have any of the following symptoms that are new or worsening:
 - Fever and/or chills (temp. of 37.8C/100.0F or greater)
 - 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)
 - Decrease or loss of sense of taste or smell.
 - If answered yes:
 - Child must isolate immediately and is not permitted in the centre
 - Contact the assessment centre for a COVID-19 test or your health care provider for an alternative diagnosis
 - Stay home for 10 days from onset of symptoms.
- Does your child have any of the following symptoms that are new or worsening:
 - Sore throat
 - Stuffy nose and/or runny nose
 - Headache
 - Nausea, vomiting and/or diarrhea
 - Fatigue, lethargy, muscle aches or malaise
 - If answered yes to **ONE** symptom:
 - Child must stay home for 24 hours when the symptoms started
 - If the symptom is improving after 24 hours, your child may return if they feel well enough to do so.
 - If the symptom persists or worsens, contact the assessment centre for assessment or your health care provider for an alternative diagnosis.
 - If answered yes to **TWO** symptoms:
 - Child must isolate immediately and is not permitted in the centre
 - Contact the assessment centre for a COVID-19 test or your health care provider for an alternative diagnosis.
 - Stay home for 10 days from onset of symptoms.