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## City of Hamilton COVID-19 – Child Care Centre Operation

### COVID-19 Outbreak Response Updated September 2021

An outbreak may be declared by the local public health unit when within a 14-day period, there are two or more laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 cases in children, staff/providers or other visitors with an epidemiological link (e.g., cases in the same room, cases that are part of the same before/after school care cohort) where at least one case could have reasonably acquired their infection in the child care setting.

#### **Triggering an outbreak assessment**

Investigate clusters of children and/or staff positive for COVID-19 in the child care centre and take the following steps:

- 1) Child care centre licensees have a duty to report suspected or confirmed cases of COVID-19 under the Health Protection and Promotion Act. There are separate reporting requirements for the Ministry of Education and City of Hamilton Public Health, as outlined in the *Child Care Centre Operation – Reporting Requirements* document.
- 2) Hamilton Public Health Services will provide specific advice on what control measures should be implemented to prevent the potential spread and how to monitor for other possible infected staff members and children. This could include closing particular child care rooms or cohorts or an entire child care setting.
- 3) Hamilton Public Health Services will help determine which groups of children and/or staff/providers need to be sent home or if a partial or full closure of the child care setting is required.
- 4) Enforce enhanced screening measures among children and staff, such as screening upon arrival and more frequent monitoring of staff/children throughout the day. Please refer to *Child Care Centre Operation - Screening* document.
- 5) If the public health unit determines that partial or full closure of the child care setting is required, the licensee must revise their existing serious occurrence report for a confirmed COVID-19 case to include information about the closure.

### **Required Steps in an Outbreak**

If an outbreak is declared at the child care centre, the following measures must be taken:

- 1) Consult with and follow directions from Public Health.
- 2) Notify all family, staff, and essential visitors of the facility's outbreak status. (i.e. letters and signage)
- 3) Enhance cleaning and disinfecting procedures
- 4) Enhanced screening procedures (i.e. increased frequency of health checks)
- 5) More frequent hand hygiene with children and staff.
- 6) Review staff training on proper PPE use.

### **Declaring an Outbreak Over**

In consultation with Public Health, the outbreak can be declared over if no new cases have occurred in 14 days from the last day of attendance of the most recent COVID-19 positive staff/child.