

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

### Enhanced Cleaning and Disinfection Requirements

Commonly used cleaners and disinfectants are effective against the virus that causes COVID-19. In order to prevent the spread of respiratory illnesses including COVID-19, licensed child care settings will be required to maintain their routine cleaning and disinfection schedules, providing enhanced cleaning and disinfection of high-touch surfaces and mouthed toys.

Further information on routine cleaning requirements and scheduling recommendations can be found in City of Hamilton's [Infection Control Guidelines for Child Care Centres](#).

All products including cleaners and disinfectants must be out of reach of children, labelled and must have Safety Data Sheets (SDS) that are up to date and stored in WHMIS binder on site. Each classroom and washroom should have its own designated detergent and disinfectant.

**Cleaning:** completed with soap and water so as to remove dirt and grease that can hide and protect germs from disinfectants. Cleaning with soap and water will also substantially reduce the number of germs that may be on surfaces.

**Disinfecting:** after cleaning, disinfectant solution will kill most of the germs that were left behind. A routine housekeeping schedule is necessary to ensure these duties are completed (a checklist is useful).

#### Selection of Disinfectants

It is important to choose an approved disinfectant with a drug identification number (DIN). It must be appropriate for the surface it is being used on and the contact time (time the surface stays wet) must be achievable. Public Health recommends a product with a shorter contact time of between 1 and 3 minutes.

#### Record Keeping

The child care setting must produce a specific cleaning and disinfecting schedule for each group, washroom, kitchen, common areas, indoor/outdoor play areas, and other areas accessed by the program.

A cleaning and disinfection log must be used to track and demonstrate cleaning schedules (indoor and outdoor).

**The child care setting must designate staff to clean and disinfect. These individuals will be responsible for keeping cleaning and disinfecting records, which should include the date, time, product used, the name of the staff responsible, etc.**

## **Enhanced Cleaning Frequencies:**

### **Toys and Play Structures:**

Play structures can only be used by one group at a time. Play structures must be cleaned and disinfected in between groups. The child care operator must establish what product will be used to clean and disinfect play structures. The following enhanced cleaning measures must be completed:

- Increase frequency of cleaning and disinfecting to daily (not weekly). Please refer to page 17 of the [Infection Control Guidelines for Child Care Centres](#).
- Encouraged to have designated toys and equipment for each room. If shared, must be cleaned and disinfected at a minimum between groups.
- Any mouthed toys must be cleaned and disinfected immediately after each use. After disinfecting, the toy must be rinsed with potable water prior to returning to play.
- Soft fabric toys and items that cannot tolerate regular cleaning and disinfection must not be used.
- Indoor/outdoor sensory play is discouraged unless items are single use and dedicated to one child (e.g. sandbox, water table, etc.).

### **Washrooms:**

- Only one group should access the washroom at a time, and it is recommended that the facilities be cleaned in between each use, particularly if different groups will be using the same washroom.

### **Before and After School Programs:**

School boards are required to clean and disinfect classrooms after the core day program ends and the before and after school program begins.

### **Food Provision**

Licensees should change meal practices to ensure there is no self-serve or sharing food at meal times.

- Utensils should be used to serve food.
- Meals should be served in individual portions to the children
- There should be no items shared (i.e. serving spoon or salt shaker)

There should be no food provided by the family/outside of the regular meal provision of the program (except where required and special precautions for handling and serving the food must be in place).

Ensure proper hand hygiene is practiced when staff are preparing food and all individuals before and after eating. Where possible, children should practice physical distancing while eating.

### **Frequently Touched Areas**

- High touch surfaces such as door handles, hand rails, door knobs, water fountain

knobs, light switches, tabletops, electronic devices, toilet and faucet handles, etc. should be cleaned and disinfected at least twice per day and more often as needed.

- Staff must adhere to diapering and toileting steps and ensure proper cleaning and disinfecting between diaper change or toileting processes.

For further information on cleaning and disinfection, visit Public Health Ontario's website at <https://www.publichealthontario.ca/-/media/documents/ncov/factsheet-covid-19-environmental-cleaning.pdf?la=en>

