



Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 897
Hamilton, ON L8N 3P6
www.hamilton.ca

Hamilton

Public Health Services, EW&CDC
110 King Street West, 2nd Floor, Hamilton, ON L8P 4S6
Phone: (905) 546-2063 Fax: (905) 546-4078

City of Hamilton – COVID-19 Child Care Centre Operation

COVID-19 Outbreak Response

Triggering an outbreak assessment. Once at least one child or staff has presented with new symptoms compatible with COVID-19, the child care centre should immediately trigger an outbreak assessment and take the following steps:

- 1) If a child or child care staff becomes sick while in the program, they should be isolated and family members contacted for pick-up. If the sick person is a child, a child care staff should remain with the child until a parent/guardian arrives. If tolerated and above the age of 2, the child should wear a surgical/procedure mask. The child care setting should specify where the isolation room will be and who will be responsible for monitoring the child. As soon as the child is isolated from others, the staff member caring for the child should perform hand hygiene and maintain the use of surgical/procedure mask, face shield/goggles, and gown and/or gloves if there is risk of exposure to infectious droplets. The child care staff should also avoid contact with the child's respiratory secretions. Staff member must perform hand hygiene after any contact with the ill child.
If a separate room is not available, the ill child should be kept at a minimum of 2 metres from others. This may be achieved by using physical barriers, floor markers, etc. The ill child should be provided with tissues and reminded of hand hygiene, respiratory etiquette, and proper disposal of tissues.
- 2) All items used by the ill person should be cleaned and disinfected by the cleaning staff designated for that group. Any items that cannot be cleaned (paper, books, cardboard puzzles) should be removed and stored in a sealed container for a minimum of 3 days.
- 3) Where there is a suspected or confirmed case of COVID-19 in a child, parent, or staff, the licensee must report this to the ministry as a serious occurrence.
- 4) Where a COVID-19 outbreak is declared and a room/centre is closed, the licensee must report this to the ministry as a serious occurrence. Licensees are required to post the serious occurrence notification form as required under the CCEYA, unless the local public health unit advises otherwise (e.g. in case the report is false positive).
- 5) In the case of an outbreak, the child care centre may be directed to resume 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 Screening Document.
- 6) If the program is located in a school or a shared space setting (e.g. community centre), follow public health advice on notifying others using the space of the suspected and/or confirmed illness.

Exclusion Criteria

Individuals who are tested:

- Ill children/staff who test negative for COVID-19 must be excluded until 24 hours after symptom resolution.
- Children/staff who test positive for COVID-19 must be excluded from child care centre for 14 days after the onset of symptoms and clearance has been received from the local public health unit.

Individuals who are not tested:

- Ill children/staff that do not get tested, must be excluded for 14 days from onset of their symptoms.

Management of a Single Case in a Child/Staff. A single positive case in a child/staff results in an outbreak being declared at the child care setting. All members of the group are to be excluded from the child care centre for 14 days. Laboratory-confirmed cases of COVID-19 must be reported to Public Health and in consultation with Public Health, other group members may be referred for testing.

Management of cases in multiple groups If there are additional positive cases in other groups, this must be reported to Public Health and the facility will close. In consultation with Public Health, all staff and children in the child care setting may be referred for testing.

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.