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Hamilton

City of Hamilton – COVID-19 – EarlyON Operation

Enhanced Cleaning and Disinfection Requirements

From what is currently understood about COVID-19, 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, EarlyON Centres 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 room in the centre and washroom should have its own designated detergent and disinfectant.

Cleaning: done with soap and water removes 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. Frequently touched surfaces should be cleaned and disinfected at least twice a day and in between program sessions.

Disinfecting: after cleaning 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). Frequently touched surfaces should be cleaned and disinfected at least twice a day and in between program sessions.

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.

Usage of PPE While Cleaning

If staff are unable to practice physical distancing from each other while cleaning and disinfecting, PPE (medical masks and face shields) should continue to be worn. It is recommended that staff also review the Safety Data Sheets (SDS) sheets for health and safety information about cleaning products, substances or chemicals that are classified as hazardous substances or dangerous goods in order to determine whether additional PPE such as medical gloves should be worn.

Hand Hygiene

EarlyON operators are encouraged to promote frequent, proper hand hygiene before and after using shared toys/equipment and materials, and before and after eating.

Record Keeping

EarlyON Centres must produce a specific cleaning and disinfecting schedule for each 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 programs).

EarlyON Centres 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.

Existing practices should be reviewed to determine where enhancements might be required, including frequency and timing of cleaning and disinfection, areas to clean and/or disinfect, choice of cleaning products, and child safety, staffing, signage, and PPE use when cleaning.

Enhanced cleaning frequencies

EarlyON Centre premises should be cleaned daily. In addition to the existing cleaning protocols that were in place pre-COVID-19, frequently touched 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 a day at a minimum, however, more frequent cleaning and disinfection may be necessary, depending on the frequency of use and extent of soilage.

Items that cannot be properly cleaned and disinfected must not be used by visitors in the facility.

Toys & Play Structures

- Providers are encouraged to limit usage of equipment and toys, particularly the sharing of toys, where possible.
- Ensure that only toys made of materials that can be cleaned and disinfected are used (e.g. avoid plush toys, playdough) or are single use and are disposed of at the end of the day (e.g. craft supplies).
- Ensure toys and materials used are cleaned and disinfected in between program sessions.
- Centres are encouraged to have designated toys and equipment for each group. If shared, toys and equipment 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.).
- Play structures can only be used by one group at a time. Play structures are not required to be cleaned and disinfected in between groups, however encouraging proper hand hygiene before and after using shared outdoor structures is advised.

Washrooms

EarlyON providers must ensure washroom facilities are cleaned between each use. The facilities should be cleaned at the end of one group so that they are clean for the next scheduled group.

Food Provision

Food handlers must adhere to the requirements of the Ontario Food Premises Regulation as well as physical distancing requirements of 2 metre spacing. All activities where EarlyON visitors would participate in food preparation must be eliminated. There is no self-service or sharing of food at meal times. Only EarlyON staff are able to prepare food at this time.

In addition, please consider the following best practices:

- Proper hand hygiene is practiced when staff are preparing food and all individuals practice proper hand hygiene before and after eating.
- Promoting safe masking practices before and after eating, including safely storing their mask when not in use.
- Ensuring that there is no sharing of food items (i.e. salt shaker, serving spoon etc.) among participants.
- Food is served in individual portions.
- Ensuring that if a microwave needs to be used that it is cleaned and disinfected after each use.
- If packaged snacks are being served from a box/container (i.e. crackers) the staff should serve the food using tongs. The outside of the box can be disinfected and then put back in the kitchen to reuse if it isn't empty.

Outdoor Programming

EarlyON Centres outdoor space should have:

- Areas large enough for 4 metre square space per person for active activities
- Preference to shaded areas, flat surface, and green space
- Shaded areas large enough for 2 metre distancing between participants
- Ensure any equipment is sanitized before distribution
- Multiple use equipment is sanitized upon return or between groups
- Organized circle games include no touching or shared equipment

Where outdoor clothing, such as rain boots, snow pants, are provided to children accessing EarlyON programming, EarlyON providers must launder clothing in between uses to ensure clothing is not shared. For boots, shoes, providers should use disinfectant spray to clean these items after each use.

Where an individual is suspected of having COVID-19 in an EarlyON setting

- Establish a protocol to determine contaminated areas and carry out cleaning and disinfection, including timing, when to return to use, methods of cleaning, PPE to be used while cleaning, and waste disposal.

- Identify areas that may require cleaning plus disinfection (items used by the individual and all surfaces within 2 metres of the ill person) versus cleaning alone (such as a hallway or room where the individual has passed through).
- Use disposable cleaning equipment, such as disposable wipes, where possible.
- Remove all items that cannot be cleaned (paper, books, etc.) and store them in a sealed container for a minimum of 3 days.

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>