



Hamilton

Healthy & Safe Communities Department
Children's Services & Neighbourhood Development Division
6th Floor, 28 James Street North
Hamilton ON L8R 2K1
www.hamilton.ca

September 14, 2020

Dear Child Care and Early Years Operators:

Thank you for your continued support and partnership as we work together to safely reopen and provide high quality early learning in Hamilton. The health and safety of our child care and early years sector continues to be a priority and therefore we are providing further clarification on the following:

Medical Masks and Face Coverings:

There continues to be many questions and inquiries regarding the change that came into effect on September 1. The provincial government implemented the need for medical masks and face shields to be worn based on evidence and medical advice. As employers we recognize that some operators have a duty to accommodate their staff when the Ministry issued eye protection cannot be used for medical reasons. The criteria for selecting eye protection includes the following:

- eye protection must provide a barrier to splashes from the side
- eye protection may be single-use disposable or washable before re-use
- prescription eye glasses are not acceptable as eye protection.

Additional information is located here

<https://www.ccohs.ca/oshanswers/prevention/ppe/glasses.html>

https://buyandsell.gc.ca/sites/buyandsell.gc.ca/files/specifications_for_eye_protection_2020_04_10_0.pdf

Reporting a Serious Occurrence to the Ministry of Education:

- Child care licensees are required to submit serious occurrences for confirmed or suspected cases of COVID-19
- Suspected cases include individuals exhibiting **1 or more symptoms** (previous requirements were for 2 or more symptoms).
- A Serious Occurrence is required to be submitted when one of the following individuals has a **confirmed** case of COVID-19 **OR** a **suspected** case involving the individual exhibiting **1 or more symptoms AND** the individual has been **tested**, or has indicated that they will be tested for COVID-19; this includes:
 - (i) a **child who receives child care** at a home child care premises or child care centre,
 - (ii) a home child care **provider**,
 - (iii) a person who is **ordinarily a resident of a home child care premises** (eg. the home provider's child, the home provider's spouse etc.; for complete definition please refer to the Home Child Care Licensing Manual)
 - (iv) a person who is **regularly at a home child care premises** (eg. the home provider's friend who visits the premises once a week etc.; for complete definition please refer to the Home Child Care Licensing Manual),

- (v) a **home child care visitor**,
- (vi) a **parent of a child** mentioned in subclause (i), or
- (vii) a **staff** member at a child care centre
- (viii) a **student** at a home child care premises or child care centre,

- Where a room, centre or premises closes due to COVID-19, licensees 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.

Reporting to City of Hamilton Public Health:

Child care licensees must contact Hamilton Public Health Services to report:

- Clusters of suspected cases (e.g. two or more children or staff with COVID-19 symptoms within a 48-hour period).
- Cases of COVID-19 among staff or child attendees that are laboratory-confirmed or probable (i.e. symptoms occurring among a staff or child who has been exposed to a person with confirmed COVID-19, or, travelled to an affected area in the 14 days prior to symptom onset.)

Public Health 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. Notification should be provided by calling the COVID-19 hotline, 905-974-9848 option 6.

Symptomatic staff and/or parents/guardians of symptomatic children should call Public Health's COVID-19 line at 905-974-9848 option 2 to book a testing appointment.

Reporting to City of Hamilton Children's Services and Neighbourhood Development:

All positive cases of COVID for children and staff in both licensed child care and EarlyON programs must be reported. Please contact Alexandra Madjercic at alex.madjercic@hamilton.ca or (905) 546-2424 ext. 3091.

We recognize that things continue to evolve and commit to keeping everyone updated as directions and decisions are made using the best medical evidence and advice.

If you have any questions please contact Brenda Bax, Manager of Early Years Operations at brenda.bax@hamilton.ca or (905) 546-2424 ext. 4120.

Sincerely,



Grace Mater
Director
Children's Services and Neighbourhood Development Division