



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

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

Hamilton

City of Hamilton – COVID-19 – EarlyON Operation

Requirements on the Use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

November 2020

The Ontario government will provide essential PPE for all early years providers. PPE is stored at Affiliated Services for Children and Youth (ASCY). Providers can send an email to info@ascy.ca or call at 905-574-6876 to obtain PPE.

Indoor Programs

EarlyON Staff

All EarlyON staff are required to wear medical masks and eye protection (i.e., face shield or goggles) while inside the EarlyON premises, including in hallways and staff rooms.

Caregivers and Other Adults

All other adults (parents/caregivers/essential visitors) are required to wear a face covering or non-medical mask while inside the premises, including hallways and other shared areas.

Children

Please note that the local guidance around masking for children attending EarlyON Centres has now changed. Previously, children between 2-5 years of age were not required to wear a mask in EarlyON programs, unless the Centre was in a school in which case all school-aged children (3.8 and above) were required to wear a mask. In order to obtain consistency across EarlyON settings, alignment with the school board masking policies must now be observed for all EarlyON programs regardless of whether they are in a school or other facility.

This means that all school aged children (age 3.8 and above) are required to wear a non-medical mask or face covering while inside the premises, including hallways and other shared areas.

All younger children (aged 2 through 3.7) are encouraged, but not required to wear a non-medical mask or face covering while inside an EarlyON setting, including in hallways. Masks are not recommended for children under the age of two.

See information about the use of masks on the City of Hamilton [COVID-19 website](#).

EarlyON Centres in Schools

EarlyON locations that are located in schools, including those who use shared entrances/washroom facilities in schools need to follow the masking policies of the local school board.

- Medical masks are required for all adults including parents/caregivers attending EarlyON centres located in schools in Hamilton. EarlyON operators should provide these masks to all adults attending EarlyON programs in schools, unless they arrive with their own medical mask.
- School aged children (age 3.8 years and above) attending EarlyON programs must wear a non-medical/cloth mask while in the premises.

Outdoor Programs

The use of masks is not required outdoors for adults or children if physical distancing of a least 2-metres can be maintained between individuals.

Indoor masking policies apply when individuals participating in an outdoor EarlyON program are accessing washroom facilities.

- All school aged children (age 3.8 and above) are required to wear a non-medical mask or face covering while inside the premises, including hallways and other shared areas.
- Adults must follow the local by-law (non-medical mask) or the masking policy of the local school board (medical mask), as applicable.

Provision of Masks

Parents/guardians are responsible for providing their child(ren) (if applicable) and themselves with a non-medical mask(s) or face covering when participating in EarlyON programs and services in-person. Medical masks, where required, should be provided by the EarlyON operator.

Safe Masking Practices

Masks may become harder to breathe through when they become damp, and although this should not affect filtration capacity significantly, the recommendation is to replace the mask when the dampness become uncomfortable.

For this reason multiple masks may be needed if they are being worn outdoors in cold weather.

Masks should also be replaced when they become visibly soiled.

Exceptions/Exemptions

The use of masks is not required outdoors for adults or children if physical distancing of a least 2-metres can be maintained between individuals.

Wearing a mask or face covering is required in enclosed public spaces under City of Hamilton By-Law 20-155, however there are a number of exemptions including “A person who has an underlying medical condition which inhibits their ability to wear a face covering”.

Reasonable exceptions to the requirement to wear masks are expected to be put in place by EarlyON Centres. Other exceptions to wearing masks indoors could include circumstances where a physical distance of at least 2 metres can be maintained between individuals, situations where a child cannot tolerate wearing a mask, etc. No family should be denied entry or stigmatized if they indicate they are unable to wear a mask or face covering due to a listed exemption.

EarlyON Centres should document their requirements and exemptions related to masks (e.g. within their COVID-19 policy). Note that medical documentation is not required and should not be requested in these circumstances.

Medical gloves

Medical gloves are not required or recommended by Public Health in an EarlyON setting except under unique circumstances, such as if active screening were taking place.

Performing proper hand hygiene continues to be recommended instead of gloves for interacting with families, toys, etc. Parents and caregivers are on site and are responsible for wiping children's noses and taking them home if they develop symptoms.

For these reasons medical gloves are not provided by the City of Hamilton for staff working in EarlyON centres. Please continue to promote the Public Health recommendations around handwashing.

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.

Hand washing using soap and water is recommended over alcohol-based hand rub when hands are visibly soiled. Refer to Public Health Ontario's How to Wash Your Hands fact sheet.

Hand sanitizer containing 60%-90% alcohol content may be used when hands are not visibly soiled.