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Hamilton

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

COVID-19 Symptoms in a Child Care Setting Updated September 2021

The City of Hamilton wants to ensure that all licensed child care centres are providing a safe and healthy environment for children, families and providers. Licensed child care providers must be aware of and adhere to established exclusion criteria.

Children who have an infectious illness that may be communicable must not enter a child care facility while infectious. For further information on exclusion criteria for illnesses other than COVID-19, please review the exclusion criteria outlined in the [Infection Control Guidelines for Child Care Centres](#).

In response to COVID-19, it is critical for licensed child care providers ensure staff and children are screened and excluded as appropriate.

When to exclude

See the provincial COVID-19 screening tool for symptom screening, monitoring and isolation procedures. All individuals must follow the monitoring and isolation advice outlined in the screening tool.

Persons who test positive for COVID-19 should follow the guidance of Hamilton Public Health and their health care professional regarding direction for isolation and returning to a child care setting. The individual cannot return until cleared by the public health unit. Note that individuals do not need to provide a medical note or proof of negative result to return to the program.

If an individual becomes ill while in the child care setting:

A written process must be developed to outline the steps required if a child/staff requires exclusion from the program.

- If a child or child care staff becomes ill while in the program, they should be isolated and family members contacted for pick-up. If the ill person is a child, a child care staff should remain with the child until a parent/guardian arrives. Child care staff should be asked to self-isolate and avoid taking public transit home.
- Sibling(s) of the symptomatic child also need to be excluded from the program and should be isolated from the rest of their cohort until they are picked up.
- If tolerated and above the age of 2, the child should wear a surgical/procedure mask.
- The child care centre should specify where the isolation room will be and who will be responsible for monitoring the child.

- Anyone providing care to the ill individual should maintain as much physical distance as possible. If physical distancing is not possible (e.g., if a young child needs comfort) staff/providers should consider added PPE (i.e., gloves, gown).
- The person caring for the individual should wear a medical mask and eye protection and be trained on proper use of PPE, including donning and doffing.
- 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.
- Cleaning of the area the separated individual was in and other areas of the child care setting where the ill individual was should be conducted as soon as reasonably possible after the ill individual leaves.
- The ill individual and/or their parent or guardian be advised to use the online self-assessment tool and follow instructions which may include seeking medical advice or going for testing for COVID-19.
- Regular child care operation can continue unless directed otherwise by Hamilton Public Health.
- An ill individual who has a known alternative diagnosis provided by a health care professional may return to child care if they do not have a fever and their symptoms have been improving for at least 24 hours.

Reporting

Communication protocols to update and inform necessary stakeholders within the child care community while maintaining confidentiality of the ill individual should be initiated (e.g., contact the school, home child care agency, City of Hamilton Public Health and/or ministry through a Serious Occurrence Report as applicable).

Operators must ensure that staff are aware of the current reporting requirements.

Please refer to the *Child Care Centre Operation – COVID-19 Reporting Requirements* document.

Contacts of a COVID-19 Case

- Children or staff who have been in contact with a COVID-19 case should follow Public Health's recommendation on isolation and testing.

End of exclusion/Return to Child Care

- Children and staff should follow the direction provided in the most current COVID-19 screening tool for school and child care from the Ministry of Health (<https://covid-19.ontario.ca/school-screening/>)

Note: A medical note or proof of a negative test is not required to return.