

Coronavirus COVID-19 Policy and Guidance for Licensed Home Child Care

POLICY

These procedures and processes have been set out to support the health, safety, and well-being of everyone in the program. Providers will follow the procedures as set out in this document to ensure every reasonable precaution is taken.

HEALTH SCREENING PROCESS

Program Families

Prior to arrival at the Provider's home each day, every parent/guardian (on behalf of their child) are expected to complete the provincial self-screen and to stay home if feeling unwell. The Provincial Self-Screening and Decision Tool can be found at, <https://www.healthunit.com/covid-19-resources-schools-and-child-care>

If your child fails the screening, and is therefore unable to attend the program, please contact your Provider to let them know.

Providers and Residents of the Home

Prior to the opening of the home child care program each day, every Provider and resident of their home, are expected to self-screen. The Provincial Self-Screening and Decision Tool can be found at, <https://www.healthunit.com/covid-19-resources-schools-and-child-care>

If an individual has failed the screen or there is a situation of a suspected or confirmed case of COVID-19, Providers must document the incident in the Daily Written Record and connect with their Home Child Care Coordinator for further instruction.

The failed screen of a Provider or a resident of the home, who is unable to isolate independently from the program, will result in the temporary closure of the Provider's program. A voluntary closure of a Provider's program related to COVID-19, causing an unplanned disruption of service, is considered a serious occurrence.

The Provider will:

1. Inform all program families
2. Report the failed screen to the Coordinator;
3. Document the incident in the Daily Written Record;
4. Post the Serious Occurrence Notification form as required.

The Coordinator will:

1. Report the Serious Occurrence within 24 hours, based on the direction of the Ministry of Education;
2. Give the Provider the Notification form which must be posted for 10 business days at the Provider's home;
3. Conduct any necessary follow up.

In the case of a Rapid Antigen or PCR confirmed infection, Community Home Child Care will follow the direction of our local Health Unit's isolation instructions.

UNPLANNED ABSENCE

If a child has an unplanned absence from program, the Provider must contact the family to determine the reason for the absence. The Provider will report any health-related absence to their Coordinator. For the most current list of COVID-like symptoms please visit:

<https://www.ontario.ca/page/covid-19-stop-spread>

CHILD ILLNESS: MONITORING FOR SYMPTOMS

If a parent contacts the Provider to inform them that their child is presenting with COVID-like symptoms, the Provider will refer them to the current screening tool for next steps.

Management of Children with Possible COVID-19

Once children have entered care, Providers will continue to monitor the children and themselves for possible symptoms. If a child exhibits COVID-like symptoms during program hours,

The Provider will:

1. Isolate the child immediately from the other children in a designated and supervised area until they go home;
2. Contact the parent to arrange for their child's immediate pick up;
3. Report the child's illness to the Coordinator;
4. Record the illness in the Daily Written Record;
5. Thoroughly clean and disinfect the area and surfaces as soon as reasonably possible once the child has been picked up;
6. Self-monitor for symptoms as directed in the screening document.

The Provider will maintain confidentiality of the ill individual.

The Coordinator will:

1. Conduct any necessary follow up, while maintaining confidentiality of the ill individual.

PROVIDER/HOUSEHOLD ILLNESS: MONITORING FOR SYMPTOMS

If a Provider, or a household member exhibits COVID-like symptoms during business hours and is unable to isolate independently from the program, the Provider will:

1. Contact parents/guardians to pick up their child/children;
2. Report the program closure to the Coordinator;
3. Record the symptoms in the Daily Written Record.

COMMUNICATING WITH FAMILIES

Updates to this policy are distributed to families for their information and to ensure they are aware of these expectations, include keeping children home when they are ill.

HOW TO REDUCE THE RISK

Appropriate hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette are among the most important protective strategies. Providers will implement a heightened hand washing practice in order to minimize the spread of germs and contamination. Hand washing must be done using soap and running water, whenever possible, or when hands are visibly soiled. When soap and running water are not available, an alcohol based hand sanitizer may be used. Hand sanitizer cannot replace hand washing when involved in the preparation of meals or snacks.

The home child care premise should be cleaned daily. Refer to Provider manual section 7-Sanitary Practices.