

COVID-19 Response Policy

Policy

Early Adventures Child Care Centre is dedicated to protecting the health and safety of your children, our staff, partners, and the community. We are closely monitoring COVID-19 and base our response and actions on recommendations from Toronto Public Health, Toronto Children's Services, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Health, Health Canada and additional relevant authorities.

Early Adventures Child Care Centre committed to providing a safe and healthy environment for children, families and employees. Early Adventures Child Care Centre will take every reasonable precaution to prevent the risk of communicable diseases within all our locations.

Purpose

The purpose of this procedure is to take all reasonable precautions in the protection of the employees, child and families when there is a positive or suspected COVID-19 case in any of Early Adventures Child Care Centre. There are established processes in regards to communication, reporting and business continuity when an employee, child or close contact of a child or employees tests positive for COVID-19.

While infection prevention and control has always been an integral part of our child care culture, we have adapted and enhanced our policies and procedures in response to COVID-19, to mitigate risk and ensure the health and safety of all.

The following practices will be in place:

- Staff will be screened daily prior to the start of work.
- All staff are trained on proper use of PPE and are encouraged to wear a medical/surgical face mask or an N-95 mask while inside the centre
- All program rooms are equipped with a stand alone HVAC air ventilation system

- A screening area is at the entrance of the school. Only one entrance will be used to ensure effective screening practices,
- Only one parent can enter the screening area with their child/children,
- Children will be screened online before entering the child care centre and monitored throughout the day for COVID-19 related symptoms,
- Children will be excluded from care if they have or develop symptoms related to Covid-19 and parents must pick up any sick child within 1 hour.
- Once a child is confirmed to completed screening, a runner will walk your child to the cubby area to hang up their belongings and then to their designated classroom. Unfortunately, parents are not allowed into the child care centre.
- All staff and families are provided with 2 Rapid Antigen Test's (RAT) to be used in the event that they are experiencing new or worsening Covid-19 symptoms not related to a previous illness (please see PCR & RAT Testing Policy for more details)
- Policies and procedures have been developed specific to COVID-19 in order to increase the health and safety of children, staff and families.
- Staff will supervise children to ensure infection prevention and control practices are prioritized.
- Procedures will be updated and revised regularly to ensure best practices in accordance with Public Health authorities.
- Entry will be denied to any staff, child or parent/guardian who cannot pass the screening tool
- Children will be monitored for atypical symptoms and signs of COVID-19. Disease symptoms may be different, depending on age. Children with COVID-19 may also have non-specific symptoms such as disorientation,

confusion, sleeping more than usual, muscle aches, dizziness, weakness or falls, chills, headaches.

- Early Adventures Child Care Centre will not be engaging in any community outings/community walks/field trips, until further notice.

All employees, students and any other persons that enter the premises and engage in the programs must adhere to the following procedures.

Procedures for Suspected or Positive Covid-19 cases

When there is a suspected or positive case of COVID-19 of any employee, children or close contact of children or anyone that has entered the program in any of Early Adventures Child Care Centre Programs, the following procedures must be followed:

Suspected COVID-19 Cases

If a staff member becomes ill while at work, they are required to leave work and self-isolate. Early Adventures Child Care Centre will provide a disposable mask and gloves for the staff to wear when leaving the centre. Staff are advised to remain at home until they complete the 5 day isolation period, are known to be COVID-19 negative and 24 hours symptom free.

Symptomatic employees/children will be excluded from the program and referred for testing. Symptomatic employees and children will be directed to self-isolate for a period of 5 days.

Those who test negative for COVID-19, must be excluded for 24 hours **after** symptom resolution.

If a child or Employees have been excluded due to symptoms related to Suspected COVID-19 case:

- The Supervisor/Designate will inform the Executive Director/Associate Executive Director immediately
- Determine close contacts, Public Health does not consider all children within the cohort are a close contact but staff will continue to

monitor all children for symptoms. **Individuals only exposed at school with all public health measures in place are not generally considered high-risk contacts.**

- Symptomatic Employees and children will be referred to self-isolate and take a RAT.

Positive Cases of COVID-19

In cases of a positive COVID-19 PCR test, in any Early Adventures Child Care Centre Programs, once a positive PCR test result has been received, the following steps must be taken:

- The directors will contact Toronto Public Health 416-392-7411 and report the result/request guidance.
- Ensure Serious Occurrence in CCLS is completed and/or updated by the directors as soon as possible.
- Deep cleaning of the Centre will be arranged by Early Adventures Child Care Centre immediately.
- Early Adventures Child Care Centre may be requested, by Public Health, to provide close contact tracing records.
- Early Adventures will no longer be routinely notifying families of positive cases or if an individual is absent due to symptoms associated with Covid-19.

If absenteeism rises to a defined level in a child care program (approximately 30% above baseline), Early Adventures will send families a template notification to families/staff in the affected setting signed by the local medical officer of health, with information on public health measures for families and staff to follow.

Positive COVID-19 Test (PCR, rapid molecular, or rapid antigen)

Individuals who test **positive** on a COVID-19 test (PCR, rapid molecular, or rapid antigen) should isolate immediately.

- If the individual is 12 years of age or older **AND** either partially vaccinated, or unvaccinated, they must isolate for **10 days** from the onset of symptoms, or from the date of their test (whichever came sooner).

- If the individual is immune compromised (regardless of age and vaccination status) they must isolate for **10 days** from the onset of symptoms, or from the date of their test (whichever came sooner).
- If the individual is 12 years of age or older **AND** fully vaccinated they must isolate for at least **5 days** from symptom onset **AND** until their symptoms have been improving for 24 hours (or 48 hours if gastrointestinal symptoms are present), whichever is longer in duration.
- If the individual is 11 years of age or younger (regardless of their vaccination status), they must isolate for at least **5 days** from symptom onset **AND** until their symptoms have been improving for 24 hours (or 48 hours if gastrointestinal symptoms are present), whichever is longer in duration.

All household members of an individual who tests positive, regardless of vaccination status, should isolate while the symptomatic individual is isolating. If they develop symptoms, they should follow isolation directions for symptomatic individuals, and seek testing if eligible/available.

PCR

- Public health units can send all school and child care related COVID-19 cases confirmed with a lab-based PCR test to the Provincial Workforce (PWF) for initial contact.
- The PWF will provide cases with isolation instructions as well as testing and isolation information to be passed onto their household members and other high-risk contacts (a virtual handout will be provided).

RAT

- A positive RAT is highly indicative that the individual has COVID-19. A positive RAT does NOT need to be confirmed with a PCR test.
- Positive RATs do NOT need to be reported to the public health unit, school or child care.

Note: There is no requirement for parent(s)/guardian(s) to report their child's PCR/RAT results to the school or child care as part of absence reporting.

Exposure to a Positive or Presumed COVID-19 Case

All cases (i.e. people who test positive on PCR, rapid molecular, or rapid antigen test OR who are presumed positive) should notify high-risk contacts of their exposure.

Individuals only exposed at school with all public health measures in place are not generally considered high-risk contacts. However, depending on the nature and frequency of the interactions, specific individuals could be considered a high-risk contact (e.g., break room close unprotected contact).

Where a child, student, or staff member has been advised from a case that they may have been exposed to a positive case of COVID-19 at school, they should monitor for symptoms and seek testing if eligible/available.

If the contact does not have symptoms, has not been advised to isolate due to an exposure to a case/symptomatic individual in the community, and continues to pass the COVID-19 Child Care Screening, they may continue to attend child care.

Cohort Based Dismissals

Public health units will no longer be dismissing cohorts. Any dismissals or closures of a school or child care will be contingent on operational requirements determined by Early Adventures Child Care Centre

Early Adventures Child Care Centre will make every effort to keep our individual programs and the centre open and operational. Cohorts will only be dismissed if a staff member is absent in the designated cohort due to symptoms of Covid-19 and/or if the staff tests positive for Covid-19 and as a result we are unable to operate the program.

Given the widespread transmission and inability to test all symptomatic individuals, Early Adventures Child Care Centre will not be routinely notifying families of cohorts with a positive case, or if a child is absent due to symptoms associated with COVID-19.

Policy and Procedure Review

This policy and procedure will be reviewed and signed off by all employees before commencing employment and at any time where a change is required.

Revised: April 04, 2022.