

Exclusion of Sick Children Policy and Procedures

Policy

Early Adventures Child Care Centre is 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

To ensure that all employees are aware of, and adhere to, the directive established by Toronto Public Health regarding the exclusion of sick children in all Early Adventures Child Care Centre programs. All employees, students and any other persons that enter the premise and engage in the programs must adhere to the following procedures.

Procedures

As required by the Child Care and Early Years Act (CCEYA), Early Adventures must separate children of ill health and contact parents/guardians to take the child home. When children are ill and/or exhibit COVID-19 related symptoms, childcare employees will ensure the following:

- Ill children will be separated from all other children to the designated exclusion room, and will be supervised and monitored by an Employee until they are picked up from care by a parent/guardian.
- If the isolation room has a window, it should be open. The employee should wear full PPE and maintain physical distance of 6 feet from the child wherever possible. Another staff will stand outside the door to support the staff and child. The child should be encouraged to wear a mask if they can tolerate it.
- Any siblings of the symptomatic child should also be picked up at the same time and excluded from the Centre.
- Contaminated items belonging to the symptomatic child are sent home immediately in a tied up plastic bag.
- Symptoms of illness will be recorded in the child's daily record and in a daily log as per the CCEYA
- The parent/guardian of the ill child will be notified of the child's symptoms and of the need to pick up the child immediately; or
- If it appears that the child requires immediate medical attention, the child will be taken to the hospital by ambulance and examined by a legally qualified medical practitioner or a nurse registered under the Health Disciplines Act. R.R.O. 1990, Reg. 262, s. 34 (3).

When Your Child is Sick at Daycare

Staff will complete a basic health check and screening to ensure your child is asymptomatic when they arrive. Your child will also be monitored throughout the day.

If your child is showing any ill symptoms at home (e.g. fever, cough, difficulty breathing, loss of taste or smell, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea) your child should not attend care and should remain home and isolate for 5 days.

Your child can return if the Covid-19 test is negative AND if they have been free of symptoms for 24 hours.

If you or your child are being managed by Toronto Public Health, (e.g., confirmed cases of COVID-19, household contacts of cases) you must notify the supervisor and follow instructions from TPH to determine when to return to the facility.

If a child begins to experience symptoms of COVID-19 during the day, we will:

- Isolate the child in a designated room until they are picked up or able to go home. Provide supervision until the child is picked up. Parents/guardians or emergency contacts will be notified to pick up a sick children as soon as possible and within 1 hour.
- Children older than two years old should wear a medical mask (if tolerated), if they are able to use it properly
- Child care staff supervising the child should maintain physical distancing as best as possible, wear PPE, including medical mask and eye protection
- Provide tissues to the ill child to help support respiratory etiquette
- Open outside doors and windows to increase air circulation in the area if it can be done so safely.

- Clean and disinfect the area immediately after the child is picked up
- The designated room must have hand sanitizer (70-90% alcohol concentration) available

Child care staff and children who have been exposed to an individual who became ill with symptoms must continue to be grouped together (i.e. cohorted) and monitored for signs and symptoms of illness.

If a Staff gets sick/develops symptoms:

1. Ill staff will inform the Director/designate immediately of symptom(s)
2. Staff will be separated from all others
 - a. in designated exclusion space (indoor or outdoor) to arrange a ride
 - b. leave the childcare site immediately
3. Symptoms of illness will be recorded
4. Staff will be encouraged to receive a COVID-19 test. They may be allowed to return to the centre based on a Negative Covid-19 test result, or an alternative assessment made by physician or health care practitioner regarding symptoms or the determination that COVID-19 testing is not required.
5. The exclusion room will be cleaned and disinfected immediately after staff has left

Outbreak Management

Symptomatic employees/children will be excluded from the program. Symptomatic employees and children will be directed take a Rapid Antigen test and 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 Directors 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.

When to exclude

Childcare employees should exclude a sick child when the child has any signs and/or symptoms that are greater than normal, or if the child is unable to participate in regular programming because of illness.

Exclusion Examples:

- If the child has one or more of the following symptoms fever, cough, shortness of breath, decrease or loss of taste/smell, nausea, vomiting or diarrhea
- Symptoms defined as greater than normal would be if a child has diarrhea consistent with teething, and an additional symptom presents itself, such as lethargy
- Only one employee should be in the designated exclusion room and attempt physical distancing. A second staff will remain outside the room for support to the employee in the room. Employees should wear full PPE. Employees should perform hand hygiene and attempt to not touch their face with unwashed hands
- If possible, a mask should be placed on the ill child, but only if the child is able to understand that they cannot touch it.

How to exclude a Child with non COVID-19 symptoms

- One staff will supervise the child in a designated room with a hand washing sink and/or hand sanitizer available
- Notify parents/caregivers of the sick child for pick up
- Only one staff should be in the designated exclusion room and attempt physical distancing. Staff must wear a mask and gloves. Eye protection must be worn if physical distancing of 6ft / 2m cannot be maintained and there is anticipation of contact with bodily fluids.
- Increase ventilation in the designated exclusion room if possible (e.g., open windows)
- Clean and disinfect the area immediately after the child has been sent home

- While cleaning and disinfecting wear PPE

How to exclude a child with two or more COVID-19 symptoms if symptoms are considered to be COVID-19 related (refer to most recent health screening checklist)

- Supervise the child in a designated room with a hand washing sink and/or hand sanitizer available
- Notify parents/caregivers of the sick child for pick up
- the employee isolating with the child and the cohort the child was in. In addition, staff should perform hand hygiene and attempt to not touch their face with unwashed hands
- Only one employee should be in the designated exclusion room and attempt physical distancing. Employees should wear full PPE. In addition, Employees should perform hand hygiene and attempt to not touch their face with unwashed hands
- If possible, a mask should be placed on the ill child, but only if the child is able to understand that they cannot touch it. Masks will not be provided to any child under the age of two.
- Increase ventilation in the designated exclusion room if possible (e.g., open windows)
- Tissues should be provided to the child for proper respiratory etiquette, with proper disposal of the tissues
- Wearing full PPE, clean and disinfect the area immediately after the child has been sent home
- 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.**
- During this period they should avoid contact with vulnerable persons or settings where there are vulnerable persons (i.e., long-term care homes)
- Employees and children who are being managed by Toronto Public Health should follow their instructions to determine when to return to the child care centre.

Surveillance

Ensuring that all environmental conditions are constantly monitored is essential in preventing and reducing illness. Employees must monitor for an increase in

above normal amount of illness among other employees and children, by looking at the normal occurrence of illness at that location and during the specific time period as well as preexisting conditions.

Ensure surveillance includes the following:

- Observe children for illness upon arrival
- Record symptoms of illness for each child including signs or complaints the child may describe (e.g., difficulty breathing, decrease or loss of taste/smell etc.)
- Record the date and time that the symptoms occur
- Record the room the child attends (e.g., room number/description)
- Record attendances and absences

Returning from exclusion due to illness

Employee/children who are being managed by Toronto Public Health (e.g., confirmed cases of COVID-19, household contacts of cases) should follow instructions from Toronto Public Health to determine when to return to the facility. If not advised by Toronto Public Health, Employees/children will not be permitted back to the facility for a minimum of 5 days from symptoms onset; they must not have a fever and their symptoms must be improving. Past the 5 days mark they must be 48 hours symptom free at a minimum.

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: Revised April 05, 2022.