

COVID-19 AND CHILDCARE: PARENT & GUARDIAN MANAGEMENT CHECKLIST

CUPE

Parents/Guardians support and understanding during this unprecedented time is an important piece in minimizing the spread of COVID-19. Before reopening the facility, employers should be encouraged to create a memo clearly informing all parents/guardians of the new practices, outlining the screening process, self-assessment to perform on children from home, and pick-up/drop-off protocols and the expectation to adhere to them.

SCREENING PRIOR TO DROP-OFF

Prior to children being dropped off, a parent/guardian should be encouraged to do the following:

- ☐ Confirm the child does not have fever, shortness of breath, or cough.
- ☐ Take their child's temperature before coming to the facility.
- ☐ Make a visual inspection of the child for signs of illness, which could include flushed cheeks, rapid breathing or difficulty breathing (without recent physical activity), fatigue, or extreme fussiness.

CHILD SCREENING UPON ARRIVAL

- ☐ Stand behind a physical barrier, such as a glass or plastic window or partition that can serve to protect the worker.
- ☐ Make a visual inspection of the child for signs of illness, which could include flushed cheeks, rapid breathing or difficulty breathing (without recent physical activity), fatigue, or extreme fussiness.
- ☐ Make sure your face stays behind the barrier at all times during the screening. See the box to the right for screening questions.

PARENT DROP-OFF AND PICK-UP

- ☐ Designated workers for drop-off and pick-up routine.
- ☐ Create a schedule for timing for pick-up and drop-off to limit traffic in and out of the facility
- ☐ Drop-off and pick-up should limit direct contact between parents and staff members and adhere to social distancing recommendations. For example, they could wait in their cars until their pick-up time.
- ☐ Develop a communication tool between parents and workers (e.g. cellphone instructions to alert when they are on site for drop-off and pick-up).

SCREENING QUESTIONS

These are the Ontario government's COVID-19 screening questions that are relevant to children in care. These questions and symptoms do change from time to time, so please check the website for updated questions.

1. Is the person presenting with a fever, new onset of cough, worsening chronic cough, shortness of breath, or difficulty breathing?
2. Did the person have close contact with anyone with acute respiratory illness or travelled outside of Canada in the past 14 days?
3. Does the person have a confirmed case of COVID-19 or had close contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19?
4. Does the person have two (2) or more of the following symptoms?
 - Sore throat
 - Hoarse voice
 - Difficulty swallowing
 - Decrease or loss of sense of taste or smell
 - Chills
 - Headaches
 - Unexplained fatigue/malaise
 - Diarrhea
 - Abdominal Pain
 - Nausea/vomiting
 - Pink eye (conjunctivitis)
 - Runny nose/sneezing without other known causes
 - Nasal congestion without other known cause

Each bullet in Question 4 represents one symptom. Any two symptoms would provide a positive screening result.

If response to **ALL** questions is **NO**, screen is **NEGATIVE**.

If response to **ANY** question is **YES**, screen is **POSITIVE**.

- Consider staggering arrival and drop-off times and plan to limit direct contact between and with parents as much as possible.
 - Have childcare providers greet children outside as they arrive.
 - Designate a staff member to be the drop-off/pick-up point person to walk all children to their room, and at the end of the day, walk all children back to their cars.
 - Infants could be transported in their car seats. Designate a single area where infants can be removed from their seats. Store car seat out of children's reach. Clean/sanitize the surface and wash hands before picking up another car seat/infant.
- Hand hygiene stations should be set up at the entrance of the facility, so everyone accessing the facility can clean their hands before they enter. If a sink with soap and water is not available, provide hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol next to parent sign-in sheets. Keep hand sanitizer out of children's reach and supervise use. If possible, place sign-in stations outside, and provide sanitary wipes for cleaning pens between each use. Ensure that a waste container is placed nearby and have a process in place to ensure it's emptied regularly.
- If possible, the same parent or designated person should drop off and pick up the child every day.
- Ensure there is entrance and exit designation for parent pick-up and drop-off. Signage will help with the flow of traffic during this time.
- Do not share toys with other groups of infants or toddlers unless they are washed and sanitized or disinfected before being moved from one group to the other.
- Set aside toys that need to be cleaned. Place in a dish pan with soapy water or put in a separate container marked for "soiled toys." Keep dish pan and water out of reach from children to prevent risk of drowning. Washing with soapy water is the ideal method for cleaning. Try to have enough toys so that they can be rotated through cleanings.

CLEANING AND SANITIZING OR DISINFECTING BEDDING

- Use bedding (sheets, pillows, blankets, sleeping bags) that can be machine washed. Keep each child's bedding separate, and consider storing in individually labeled bins, cubbies, or bags. Cots and mats should be labeled for each child. Bedding that touches a child's skin should be cleaned weekly or before use by another child, unless that child develops symptoms.

CLEANING AND DISINFECTING OUTDOOR AREAS

- Outdoor areas such as playgrounds in schools and parks generally require normal routine cleaning, but do not require disinfection.
- Do not spray disinfectant on outdoor playgrounds, as it is not an efficient use of supplies and is not proven to reduce the risk of COVID-19 to the public.
- High-touch surfaces made of plastic or metal, such as grab bars and railings should be cleaned routinely.