

YMCA of Eastern Ontario Infection Control Policy Related to COVID 19

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Revised: March 11, 2022

Based on advice from the Office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health (OCMOH) and in alignment with community measures, the province is returning child care programs to a more normal learning environment, while continuing to maintain protective measures like enhanced cleaning measures, access to rapid testing, ventilation improvements, daily screening and access to PPE for children, staff and providers.

This policy is intended to be an addition to the existing YMCA Child Care Policies to clarify the commitment the YMCA is making to minimize the spread of COVID 19. The enhancements to health and safety, sanitary practices, illness prevention, reporting, and employee safety support existing policies in relation to best practices in accordance with direction from the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health, the Public Health Unit and Childcare and Early Years Services.

This policy and procedure must be reviewed and signed off by all employees.

Health Screening and Drop off

Effective March 21, 2022 we are excited to welcome families back into our program spaces. When dropping off your child you can enter the center and ensure that you connect with an educator so there is a transfer of care. We hope that you will take a few moments to assist your child in undressing, storing their items in their cubby and putting on their indoor shoes. YMCA educators see this time as perfect to connect with you, sharing information with you about your child and our program and build a sense of community amongst all participants and their families. Please note that our program at Arbour Heights will continue to have some restrictions in place given the sharing of space with high risk congregated living. The supervisor of this program will provide participants with additional instructions specific to their operation.

We will no longer be required to verify that screening has occurred ; however, we ask that that parents and staff continue to use the provincial screening tool (<https://covid-19.ontario.ca/school-screening/>) on the website to self screen prior to attending as a strategy to ensure that we are limiting the spread of infections as much as possible.

As a precaution, hand sanitizer will continue to be available, and we encourage individuals entering the program to sanitize their hands when entering and exiting.

Physical distancing requirements have also been removed.

All visitors will be welcome back. Programs will complete the visitor log to record visitors to their program as well as make a notation in the daily log.

Attendance records will be completed as required by the Ministry and retained on site.

Child Pick Up Procedure

Effective March 21, 2022, parents are able to enter the facility. They are encouraged to use the hand sanitizer provided upon entering and exiting. They can proceed to their child's program space to pick up their child. When picking up, please ensure that you connect with an educator so that a transfer of care occurs. Pick up time provides another opportunity for parents, children and staff to connect about the child's day.

Illness

YMCA child care programs will return to following the regular illness policies. These are detailed in the Licensed Child Care Parent Handbook.

To continue on-going monitoring of COVID 19 impacts, we are still required to report absenteeism rates to public health should they rise to a level of approximately 30% above our baseline. We ask that parents report their child's absence to the program regardless of whether the absence is illness related so that we can continue to determine when reporting to public health is required.

Exclusion of Ill Individuals

Children, child care staff, and students will be excluded from a child care center if they are experiencing symptoms suggestive of COVID 19 or are a confirmed positive case either PCR or RAT. They must self-isolate, regardless of vaccination status and follow the current direction of the health unit. Your child's school or child care center will continue to support the distribution of RAT tests for symptomatic testing for children and staff participating in our programs. Staff and providers can also access RAT's via participating community locations. Please see <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/rapid-test-locator> for specific locations.

Current guidance for close contacts and in the community and households is as follows:

- Asymptomatic individuals who are close contacts of a case or symptomatic individual in the community are no longer required to isolate but MUST self-monitor for 10 days following the last exposure. During the self monitoring period, close contacts must wear a well-fitted mask in all public settings and avoid activities where they need to remove their mask. For children under 2, a well-fitted mask is not required.
- Asymptomatic household contacts of a case or a symptomatic individual are also not required to isolate if they are 17 or younger and fully vaccinated; 18 and older and have already received their COVID-19 booster; or tested positive for COVID-19 in the last 90 days and completed their isolation period. Asymptomatic household contacts not required to isolate are required to self-monitor for 10 days following the last exposure, as outlined above.
- Children under 5 who are asymptomatic household contacts are required to stay home for 5 days

Individuals should use the provincial screening tool to determine next steps as it has the most up to date recommendations and is unique to individual circumstances

Outbreak Management

Where a child, student, or staff member has been advised from a case that they may have been exposed they should follow the current recommendations noted above. While we expect the loosening of prior restrictions to assist with staffing pressures, parents should be aware that the YMCA may have to close programs where we can not meet the licensing requirements. If the YMCA can not operate due to a shortage of staff, families will be contacted via Weemarkable, telephone or email. Parents should also monitor our social media platforms for updates

If programs/rooms are closed, the YMCA will look at each case to determine whether a refund of fees will be processed. Closures that affect the center will be reported as a serious occurrence and reported under service disruption.

Arrangements for Ill Children - COVID-19 (Additional Information to Sanitary Practices Policy)

The YMCA will separate a child showing signs of illness from all other children to help reduce risk of the illness spreading.

Children will be monitored for signs of ill health throughout the day, by the staff, through visual checks. If at anytime during operating hours a child begins to display symptoms of ill health, staff should alert the supervisor, who will call the parent for immediate pick up, and isolate the child. Isolation can occur in a separate space or a space within the program area that provides a 2m distance between the symptomatic individual and the other participants. The staff will continue to supervise the child. Tissues should be provided to the child for proper respiratory etiquette, with proper disposal of the tissues and proper hand hygiene. Proper respiratory etiquette (using a tissue to cover a cough or sneeze) should be practiced.

When the family/contact is notified to pick their child up they will be directed to isolate and follow direction from the provincial screening tool and public health website. Ill children should not attend program until their symptoms are improving and they are well enough to participate. If parents require RAT kits, they should ask the school, program supervisor or connect with a community distribution program.

If the child receives an alternative diagnosis by a health care professional, parents should connect with their program supervisor regarding the child's return.

Individuals who test positive on a PCR will receive instructions from the local public health unit about when they can return. Individuals who test positive on a Rapid Antigen Test(RAT) are required to complete the required isolation period.

After the child is picked up, the isolation area must be disinfected. This includes the physical space and any materials the ill child had use of.

Environmental Cleaning and Disinfecting

As restrictions loosen, the YMCA is committed to ensuring that we continue with enhanced cleaning protocols. All employees of the service provider are expected to know and understand these procedures and carry out these procedures as per their job duties.

When carrying out any cleaning or disinfecting appropriate PPE must be worn in accordance with MSDS information for the particular product in use. Products selected for use in disinfecting must have a DIN and their use should be confirmed by public health. Hand hygiene must be completed before and after use of PPE, and upon completion of cleaning and disinfecting routines.

Cleaning and disinfecting logs will be maintained.

All logs once completed must be kept on file at the childcare centre for a period of 4 weeks.

In the case of programs that occur in shared spaces, such as school age care, routine cleaning of toys and contact surfaces are to be completed between the transition of cohorts. For example, as morning program ends for the core day and before programming begins after the core day. The YMCA will work with school administration and boards to clarify which party is responsible and ensure logs are completed.

Lifting of Cohorting :

Cohorting and distancing will no longer be required for indoor and outdoor activities. Licensees are required to ensure ratios, group sizes reduced ratios and mixed age grouping comply with requirements of the CCEYA and any other conditions on their license.

Classrooms:

Each classroom shall maintain its own disinfecting log. This log must be accessible to all staff working in the room (e.g. posted on the wall, or in a binder kept in an accessible location). Cleaning and disinfecting routines shall be carried out consistently in accordance with the disinfecting log.

Ensure toys and play materials in use are made of materials that can easily be cleaned and disinfected. Special attention must be paid to fabric items, such as pillows, stuffed animals, puppets, and dress up clothes to ensure that they are laundered regularly or when soiled to ensure that adequate disinfecting is occurring.

All high touch areas must be cleaned and disinfected at a minimum twice daily and as often as necessary (e.g. when visibly dirty, or contaminated with body fluids). High touch areas include but are not limited to: shelves containing children's toys, frequently used toys, tables, chairs, light switches, door knobs, counter tops, sinks. All low touch areas must be cleaned and disinfected minimum once daily and as often

as necessary (e.g. when visibly dirty, or contaminated with body fluids). Low touch areas include but are not limited to: floors, walls in proximity to high touch areas, door surfaces, window ledges;

Any carpeting or upholstered furniture in the room will be vacuumed daily and maintained in a sanitary condition. Tables, chairs and countertops used for food service/meal routines must be cleaned and disinfected immediately prior to use and again after food service has ended. Trash cans located within children's reach in program space, should have a lid.

Washrooms:

Cleaning and disinfecting routines shall be carried out consistently in accordance with the disinfecting log. All washroom surfaces are considered high touch surfaces and must be cleaned and disinfected at a minimum twice daily and as often as necessary (e.g. when visibly dirty, or contaminated with body fluids).

Cots and Bedding:

Cleaning and disinfecting routines shall be carried out consistently in accordance with the disinfecting log.

Cots should be stored in a manner that prevents the bedding and/or sleeping surface of one cot from touching the bedding and/or sleeping surface of any other cots. If cots are to be stored in the classroom, cots must be covered. Bedding will be laundered weekly at a minimum or when soiled

If a child requires a personal comfort item for sleep (e.g. stuffy, special blanket etc.) the item should be left at the childcare center and must be laundered and stored along with bedding. Personal comfort items (e.g. stuffy, special blanket etc.) should not be brought from home daily.

Outdoor Play Equipment:

Staff will disinfect outdoor toys and record these cleanings on the disinfecting log. It is understood that the efficacy of the disinfecting solution will be impacted by the colder weather. Additionally, staff will focus on proper hand hygiene before going out and when coming in to assist in reducing transmission.

Toy and Play Material Cleaning and Disinfection Practices

Routine toy and play material cleaning and disinfection is to be documented using the disinfecting log. When carrying out any cleaning or disinfecting appropriate PPE must be worn in accordance with MSDS. Products selected for use in disinfecting must have a DIN. Hand hygiene must be completed before and after use of PPE, and upon completion of cleaning and disinfecting routines.

Emphasis will be placed on using play materials that are easily cleaned/ disinfected. If using books, board games, puzzles and similar materials that are difficult to disinfect, an emphasis will be on having children and staff complete effective hand hygiene before and after using any shared materials. Toys and play materials accessible to children must be cleaned and disinfected on a daily basis in accordance with the requirements for high touch surfaces. Daily cleaning and disinfection is required whether or not children were observed to have touched the materials.

Any toys which are mouthed, or otherwise come into contact with bodily fluids must be immediately removed and placed in a designated container away from children's reach until the item can be appropriately cleaned and disinfected.

Sensory items can be shared between groups of children as long as effective hand hygiene, before and afterward has taken place.

Hand Hygiene Best Practices

Public Health Hand washing posters should be posted in a visible location near all sinks. Public Health Hand Sanitizing posters should be posted in a visible location near where hand sanitizer is kept for use. Public Health Diapering Routine posters must be posted in a visible location near all diaper change tables.

All staff must practice hand hygiene upon entry to the classroom, prior to engaging in play or any other activities or moving through common areas.

Hand hygiene must be practiced **after**:

- Sneezing, coughing, or blowing your nose
- Using the washroom
- Handling garbage
- Handling raw foods
- Outdoor play
- Toileting/diapering routine
- Handling soiled laundry or dishes
- Handling soiled toys or other items
- Coming into contact with bodily fluids
- Coming into contact with any soiled/mouthed items
- Gardening

Hand hygiene should be practiced **before and after**:

- Preparing, handling, serving and eating food
- Handling animals
- Touching a cut or open sore
- Changing diapers
- Glove use
- Dispensing/handling expressed breast milk
- Giving medication.

Hand washing shall be carried out in accordance with the following steps:

- Wet hands;
- Apply soap;
- Lather for at least 15 seconds. Rub between fingers, back of hands, fingertips,

- under nails;
- Rinse well under running water;
- Dry hands well with paper towel;
- Turn taps off with paper towel.

Hand Sanitizer shall be used in accordance with the following steps:

- Apply hand sanitizer (minimum 70% alcohol-based);
- Rub hands together for at least 15 seconds;
- Work sanitizer between fingers, back of hands, fingertips, and under nails;
- Rub hands until dry

NOTE: If hands are visibly dirty, hand sanitizer will not clean sufficiently. If hands are visibly dirty they must be washed with soap and water. Hand sanitizer is not to be used for children under two years and should be used only when hand washing is not available for all other age groups.

Ventilation Measures

The YMCA will continue to implement best practices to optimize ventilation in program spaces including opening windows, moving activities outdoors where possible and the use of HEPA filters

Use of Personal Protective Equipment

In alignment with community masking requirements, masks will no longer be required for staff, providers or any other individual (including children) at the center or on shared transportation. Eye protection for staff/providers is also no longer required. The YMCA recognizes that mask wearing and the use of PPE is a personal choice and some staff/families may choose to continue to use consistently or at times. Regardless of an individual's decision, we encourage all participants to be inclusive, respectful and empathetic. A reminder that under current federal travel requirements, upon return from international travel, individuals must wear a mask at all times while in public spaces (including school and child care), maintain a list of all close contacts for your first 14 days in Canada and self-monitor for signs and symptoms of COVID-19.

The YMCA will continue to provide access to PPE for staff, providers, children and parents. If your child is in need of masks, please connect with your program supervisor.

Masks are not recommended for children under the age of two.

Glove use is recommended when carrying out any of the following: performing first aid, changing a child's diaper or assisting a child with toileting, applying sunscreen, routine cleaning and disinfecting activities, cleaning bodily fluids, cleaning and disinfecting PPE and handling toys, bedding or other items which may have come into contact with bodily fluids.

Vaccine Policy

Effective March 14, 2022 vaccination disclosure policies will be revoked across all sectors. This means that the YMCA will no longer be collecting proof of vaccination, medical exemptions or completion of educational program for staff. Reporting obligations will cease and unvaccinated individuals who previously were required to undertake rapid test screening three times per week will no longer be required to do this.

Staff are being encouraged to arrange a time to receive their booster shot in order to further protect them against emerging variants

Wait List Policy

Child Care spaces will be prioritized based on the following criteria:

1. Children who require full-time care whose parents/guardians are consider essential workers
2. Children who require full-time care whose parents/guardians are working outside of the home
3. Children requiring full-time care whose parents are working from home
4. Siblings of children attending a program
5. Children who require part-time or special circumstance care

The YMCA will not charge for enrollment or prioritization. If a family is offered a space for their child, and wishes to defer because they are not ready to return they can do so at no charge. They will be reactivated in the centralized waitlist and prioritized for future availability.

Should there be families offered care through Emergency Child Care for School Age children not accessing the service prior to closure, their placement with the YMCA will conclude at the end of the lockdown period.

Health Screening Questionnaire Appendix A

*Good morning, as you are aware COVID-19 continues to evolve, as a result **The YMCA** is conducting active screening for potential risks of COVID-19 for everyone who enters the location. The screening will ensure the safety and well-being of staff, children and families."*

Date:	Arrival Time:	Departure Time:
Full Name:		
Phone Number:		

1	Does the person being screened have any of the following new or worsening symptoms: (not related to other known conditions)	Yes	No
	Fever (37.8C/100.0F or greater)		
	Shortness of breath (difficulty breathing/wheezing)		
	Cough (more than usual, croup, barking, whistling sound)		
	Decrease or loss in sense of taste or smell		
	Sore throat (pain/difficulty swallowing)		
	Nausea, Vomiting, diarrhea		

2	In the last 14 days, has the child received a COVID alert exposure notification on their phone? If they already went for a COVID test and received a negative result select NO		
3	Has the child travelled outside of Canada within the last 14 days? If exempt from federal quarantine, select NO.		

4	Has your child been identified as a close contact of someone who is confirmed as having COVID-19 by your local public health unit in the past 14 days?		
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5	Has your child been identified by a health care provider, including public health, to self isolate?		
6	Is someone that the child lives with currently experiencing any new COVID-19 symptoms and/or waiting for test results after experiencing symptoms? If the individual experiencing symptoms received a COVID-19 vaccination in the last 48 hours and is experiencing mild headache, fatigue, muscle aches, and/or joint pain that only began after vaccination, select No		
7	In the last 10 days, has the person being screened tested positive on a rapid antigen test?		

Admission to Program: If you answered YES to any of the questions, your child is not allowed to attend the program. Your child must isolate and contact your health care provider for next steps.

Staff Completing Questionnaire:

Name: _____

Signature: _____

