

Directly Operated

***Early Learning and
Child Care Centres***

Family Guide



COVID-19 ADDENDUM

This addendum is to be used with the Early Learning and Child Care Centre Family Guide. It is intended to provide families with COVID-19 specific information relevant to the child's enrollment in our child care programs. If you have any questions about the information contained herein; please speak with the program supervisor.

As new regulations and recommendations become available, we will strive to update this addendum and keep families well-informed of the best practices that we are adhering to. It is important to us that families feel comfortable entrusting their child(ren) to our care, and we take your concerns seriously.

Safe Arrival, Health Screening and Departure

To ensure that your child is safely entering the Home Child Care premises, it is important that the family member dropping the child off follow the instructions that each provider has in place.

Everyone entering the premises must have; completed the pre-screen form provided by the home child care program; and completed the Contact Tracing Form with the name of the individual dropping off and picking up the child, the time of arrival and departure, and a contact number. Face masks must be worn at drop-off, and we ask that you use hand sanitizer upon entry into a provider's home. As each child enters their personal items such as backpacks, water bottles, etc., will be disinfected along with their hands if your child is over 2 years of age. If you prefer hand washing to disinfecting, please let the provider know. Each child will have a designated space to store their personal items along with any jackets, hats, mitts, etc.

The child's temperature will be taken upon arrival and will be recorded on the COVID-19 Surveillance Record form. These forms will be collected by the provider and maintained for 30 days on the premises.

Should you forget a copy of the Pre-Screen form, there will be available copies at the provider's entry for you to complete upon arrival.

We ask that only one family member enter the Home Child Care premise at a time and that everyone maintains a distance of at least 2 metres. Because drop-off and pick-up tend to be very busy times for the program, should you wish to have a further conversation about your child's day or concerns and other parents are also waiting, please ask the provider to call you at a mutually convenient time.

Symptoms, Isolating, and Outbreaks

Please note the following protocols will be adhered to at the recommendation of the North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit.

1. We do not require a medical note or proof of a negative COVID-19 test for a child to return to care that has been asked to isolate.
2. If the child has a chronic alternate diagnosis (i.e., seasonal allergies, asthma), documented proof from a health care provider is not required to return to child care.
3. If a symptomatic child is asked to isolate and sent home from care, siblings and other household contacts enrolled in the child care program must also return home and are required to isolate until the symptomatic child; a) receives a negative COVID-19 test, or b) receives an alternative diagnosis by a health care professional. If the symptomatic child tests positive or is not tested and does not receive an alternative diagnosis, the symptomatic child must isolate (including from household members) for 10 days from symptom onset. All household contacts must isolate until 14 days from their last contact with the symptomatic child.

4. If a child has one or more symptoms (that are new or worsening and that are not due to a pre-existing medical condition or seasonal allergies) the provider will isolate the child as much as possible from the play area, assist the child (if over 2 years of age) to put on a medical grade mask, and contact the parent or guardian to have the child picked up as quickly as possible. Please note: when a child is sent home for COVID-19 related symptoms, the child care program is required to notify the public health unit.
5. A child can return to care after receiving a negative COVID-19 test if:
 - i. They have not been identified as a close contact of COVID-19 by the health unit or the COVID-19 Alert Application
 - ii. They have not travelled outside of Canada in the previous 14 days
 - iii. They have not been advised by their health care provider or the health unit to continue self-isolation
 - iv. They have not had a fever for 24 hours (without the use of medication)
 - v. Symptoms have been improving for at least 24 hours
6. If symptoms compatible with COVID-19 are persisting/worsening, the child must continue to stay home, and it is recommended that you seek medical care; consider repeat testing.
7. Children who have been identified as a close contact of a case of COVID-19 can return to care once they receive verbal clearance from the health unit.
8. In the event of a confirmed positive case of COVID-19, the health unit will notify the child care centre and conduct contact tracing. The health unit will reach out to individuals who have been identified as close contacts and who are required to self-isolate. The health unit will work closely with the provider and Home Child Care Program staff to obtain key information on each child that is needed for contact tracing and will determine if the Home Child Care Program can continue to operate.
9. The health unit may declare an outbreak when there are two or more laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 cases in children, the provider, or members of their household, or other visitors in the home where at least one case could have reasonably acquired their infection while at the premises. Signage will be posted at the child care entrances in the event of an outbreak and families will be notified as soon as possible.
10. The Home Child Care Program operates under the direction of the health unit and it is the responsibility of the health unit to determine if an outbreak exists, provide direction for outbreak control measures to be implemented, and to determine when the outbreak is declared over.

Sanitary Practices & Infectious Disease Control

Our Home Child Care Program works closely with, and is periodically inspected by, the North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit to ensure all health and safety regulations and guidelines are adhered to. The program has developed rigorous health and safety protocols to assist with the control of infectious diseases within each child care environment. As well, Home Child Care Program provider implements enhanced cleaning and disinfecting of furniture, toys, and equipment on a daily basis. For more information on the COVID-19 Health and Safety Protocols, please go to our website (www.psdssab.org) or ask the program supervisor for a copy.

Home Child Care Program staff, providers, students, and volunteers must complete mandatory PPE and COVID-19 specific Health and Safety training prior to interacting with the children. They are monitored frequently for compliance with the health and further training is available as deemed necessary.

Home Child Care Program staff and providers are required to wear PPE as directed by the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health and the NBPSDHU. All Home Child Care Program staff must wear medical grade masks and eye protection when on premise unless they have been granted a medical exemption. We are also required to follow Ministry of Health regulations for children ages 6 years and over wearing masks. An exemption from mask wearing may be granted in extenuating circumstances such as children with asthma or other underlying medical conditions. Please speak with the program supervisor should your child require an exemption.

Home Child Care Program staff and providers are trained and able to assist children on appropriate hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette, including the use of alcohol-based hand rubs. Hand hygiene will be scheduled as part of the child's daily routine as well as what is usually recommended (i.e., before and after meals, after using the washroom).

Children are not permitted to bring toys and other objects from home. Each child may bring a comfort object for their rest time, and these will be laundered at the child care program or sent home to be laundered.

Ill Children

It is important to us that every precaution is taken to reduce the spread of diseases and infections.

Families need to keep their child home and notify the program if any of the following symptoms are present:

- a) a fever,
- b) vomiting within the last 24-hour period,
- c) diarrhea (2 consecutive loose bowel movements) within the last 24-hours,
- d) any discharge from the eyes and/or ears,
- e) a severe cough, runny nose and/or congestion,
- f) any undiagnosed skin rashes or infections,
- g) gastrointestinal infection, and/or
- h) any other symptom as determined by the provincial and/or local medical officer of health.

Be aware, we are required to follow the provincial and local medical officers of health orders for excluding children of ill health, therefore the above list of symptoms is not exhaustive. We will make every effort to keep families informed as we receive directives.

If a child arrives to care with any of the above symptoms, families will be asked to return home and if the child develops symptoms or if symptoms become worse during the day, families will be contacted and asked to pick their child up as soon as possible. Likewise, if you have administered any medication to your child for fevers, gastro-intestinal upsets, or colds, please let the provider know upon arrival to the program. *Children are expected to be able to fully participate in all indoor and outdoor activities throughout the day.*

Should a child be excluded from care because of illness or is absent from care due to illness, they must be 24 hours' symptom free before returning to care. Depending on the recommendations of the local medical officer of health, children may be required to test negative or be cleared to return to child care by a medical professional before they can be admitted back to their Home Child Care Program.