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Family Day Child Care Guidelines for COVID-19 are approved by the Ministry of Education Child Care and Early Years Licensing Branch and local Public Health units, and follows the most current recommendations provided by the Ministry of Health. Family Day has trained all caregivers to implement the following measures that will reduce the spread of COVID-19 and other infectious illness within home child care environments. These guidelines are subject to change as per the direction of the Ministry of Education Child Care and Early Years Licensing Branch and local Public Health Units.

How You as a Parent Can Help

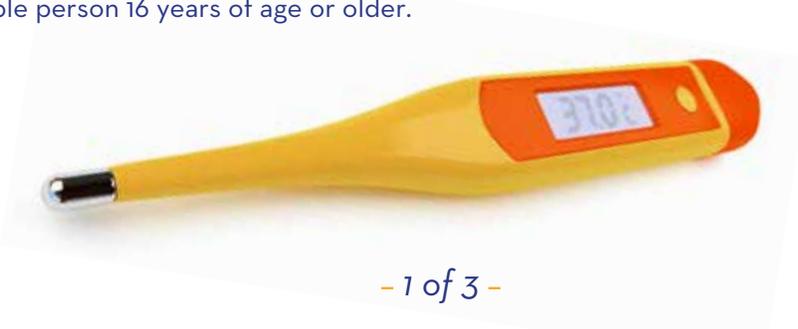
- If your child has signs and symptoms of illness, especially a fever of 37.8 degrees Celsius (100 degrees Fahrenheit) or higher, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, keep them home. Call and advise your caregiver of your child’s symptoms, so we can track this information for Public Health.
- If someone in your household has come in close contact with an individual who is suspected of having COVID-19 or has a confirmed case of COVID-19, keep your child home. Call and advise your caregiver, so we can track this information for Public Health.
- As much as possible, have the same adult drop off, and pick up each day, to reduce the number of adults who come in contact with the caregiver. Family Day considers an adult to be any responsible person 16 years of age or older.

- Plan for drop-off and pick-up to take more time than it usually does to allow for screening for illness and for the caregiver to escort your child into the program in the morning and to the door at the end of the day.
- Provide us with any changes to your contact information or your child’s medical information (e.g. allergies).

Curriculum & Programming

Family Day will continue to deliver the research based HighScope® approach that encourages children to be active learners while being supported and challenged by caring adults. Some adjustments will be made to observe physical distancing. Examples include:

- Storage for children’s personal belongings will be spaced (i.e. use of bins or baskets)
- Less children at each table for play, snacks and lunch
- Toys or equipment that are difficult to clean and disinfect will be stored or use will be monitored (e.g. plush toys, dress-up clothes, puppets, books, board games)
- Craft materials will be provided in individual kits/baskets for each child
- Sensory materials like playdough or goop will be provided in individual containers and discarded after each child’s use
- Where possible outdoor playtime will be increased
- The caregiver will incorporate fun learning activities that teach children about physical distancing and personal hygiene





Program Procedure Changes

Daily Screening Process

Each day upon arrival, all parents and children will be asked questions provided by Public Health that are designed to screen for illness. Children's temperatures will be taken. Each home will put a process in place based on the local Public Health unit recommendations. For example, in some regions, individuals can self-report temperatures, while in other regions, the caregiver must monitor individuals taking their own temperatures.

If the parent or any of their children are experiencing signs and symptoms of COVID-19 or have come in close contact with an individual who is suspected of having COVID-19 or has a confirmed case of COVID-19 or has travelled outside of Canada in the previous 14 days, they will be sent home, and not permitted to enter the caregivers' home. You will be given instructions on the closest testing site available (if your child is healthy and has completed the screening he/she is able to enter the home and participate in the program).

Cleaning & Disinfecting

Family Day/the caregiver, has implemented enhanced cleaning and disinfecting measures to help reduce the spread of infections and illness. A schedule of the frequency of cleaning and disinfecting required has been recommended by Public Health. A focus is placed on high touch areas including door handles, sinks, toilets, and toys. Any toy that is difficult to clean and disinfect has been put away (i.e. plush toys, dress-up clothes, puppets). Anytime a child places a toy in their mouth, coughs or sneezes on a toy, it is taken out of rotation until it can be cleaned and disinfected.

Personal Hygiene

The caregiver, children and staff follow a routine of **hand washing** with soap and water throughout the day. For example, we wash our hands when we arrive at the home, after using the washroom, before and after eating, after playing outdoors, after using a tissue, and any time hands are visibly soiled. Caregivers wash their hands after receiving a child into the program and demonstrate how to wash hands and monitor children while they wash their hands throughout the daily routines.

When running water is not available, for example outdoors, children over the age of 2 years can use **hand sanitizer**. The caregiver monitors children using hand sanitizer to ensure it is applied properly.

The caregiver will demonstrate for children how to **cough and sneeze** into the arm or shoulder. Anytime a child uses a tissue they are taught to discard the tissue in a garbage bin, and to wash their hands.

As much as possible children will be reminded to avoid touching their face, eyes, nose and mouth.

Children's personal creams, lotions, and diapers should be labeled with the child's name, and will be stored in an individual container just for that child, and kept out of reach of children on a shelf, or in a cupboard.

If a Child Becomes Ill at the Home

In the event that a child shows any signs or symptoms of illness that cannot be explained (e.g. teething, seasonal allergies), the parent will be called to immediately pick up their child. If the parent is not available by phone, the emergency contact will be called. While the child waits to





be picked up they will be separated from the other children (isolation). The caregiver will wear a mask and gloves, and children over the age of 2 years who can tolerate a mask will be asked to wear one. If the child has siblings attending care, siblings will also be sent home. If a caregiver or family member becomes ill at the home child care premises they will be separated from the children in the program immediately and the agency will be contacted.

Reporting Suspected Cases of COVID-19 & Testing

Each Public Health unit has a requirement for homes to report any suspected or confirmed cases of COVID-19, but the process for testing varies between units. In the event an individual is suspected of having COVID-19 the Public Health unit will advise the agency/caregiver and parent of any requirements for testing, and/or self-isolation. One case of COVID-19 does not necessarily result in a home being closed. Public Health will do contact tracing to determine who the individual came in close contact with at the home and will determine the requirement for closure of the home on their findings.

Licensed home child care programs are required to report any suspected or confirmed cases of COVID-19 or testing being conducted to the Ministry of Education. A notification for parents will be posted for your information.

Use of Masks

Wearing a mask is one strategy to reduce the spread of illness, including COVID-19. Public Health is not recommending that caregivers or children wear a mask during activities at the home. The other strategies being implemented (e.g. screening, keeping the same children and caregiver together, providing individual materials, increased frequency of cleaning and disinfecting, and hand washing) all work together to reduce the requirement for masks, and other personal protective equipment like gloves.

If you wish for your child to wear a mask, the caregiver will help your child to understand the proper method to put on/take off a mask to prevent spreading illness. Public Health does not permit children under 2 years of age to wear masks.

Nutrition: 0-3.8 years

Children will continue to be provided with snacks and lunches. Caregivers will be responsible for serving all food and drinks to children. For health and safety reasons, children will not be allowed to access food independently. Parents are required to put all feeding instructions in writing for children under 1 year of age. Please do not bring

any food from home for your child as we do not allow any outside food.

Nutrition: 4-12 years

Children will be provided with a morning and afternoon snack and lunch where applicable. Caregivers will be responsible for serving all food and drinks to children. For health and safety reasons, children will not be allowed to access food independently. Please do not bring any food from home for your child as we do not allow any outside food.

Rest Time

Children 0-3.8 years are provided with an opportunity to rest each day. Children who do not sleep, or wake up, are provided with quiet activities. Where cribs and cots cannot be placed 2 meters apart, children will lay down head to foot on their own crib or cot. Blankets will need to be sent back home to be laundered, as they cannot be washed at the caregivers' home.

Pick-Up

Parents will inform the caregiver of their arrival at the home and remain outside the home until the caregiver brings their child to the entranceway for pick up.

Placing your child care space on hold

Families who are not ready for their child(ren) to return to care upon the reopening of their program can place their child care space on hold for 30 days at this time. Fees will not be charged at this time. Space availability in the future will be dependent on current registration

Withdrawal Notification

Should you choose to withdraw your child from a home child care program, we recommend providing 10 days' notice to your Coordinator.



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