



COVID-19 Pandemic Plan

Introduction

Coronavirus Disease COVID-19) is a respiratory disease caused by the SARS-CoV-2 virus. To reduce the impact of COVID-19 outbreak conditions on our children, staff and families, it is important for us to plan for COVID-19 and mitigate the associated risks. This document provides guidance and direction for staff and families to reduce the potential risk for infection.

These instructions supersede Kids Zone childcare center policies that are already in place. Covid-19 Pandemic plan measures/policy will be reviewed with all center staff prior to their start date. Please follow links in the resources section for additional information as referenced in this document.

Infection Prevention and Control

All current infection prevention and control practices are adhered to, this includes but is not limited to:

Toys and Equipment

- For cleaning and disinfecting objects, toys and frequently touched surfaces follow Regional Public Health guidelines.
- Tables and chairs are to be cleaned daily and as often as needed (i.e. before and after meals, snack time and activities).
- Outdoor play structure must be cleaned and disinfected regularly when in use, as often as necessary.

General Infection control practices

- Children must not share soothers, bottles, sippy cups, toothbrushes, facecloths, etc. All children's personal belongings are labelled, specifically sippy cups, bottles, pacifiers, potty seats and cots.
- Group water/sensory tables must not be used.
- Individual sensory play is permitted (i.e. each child has their own separate bin and materials)
- No family serving style at any time.
- Only one cohort should access the washroom at a time and washrooms should be cleaned in between use by different cohorts.
- Meals & snacks should be counter served and portioned into individual size by staff before serving to children.

Cots

- Cots and cribs must be labelled and assigned to children.
- Increase the distance between cots and place (ideally 2 meters), If space is tight place children head-to-toe.
- Blankets must be labelled with child's name and stored separately on each child's assigned bed so they are not touching each other and kept out of way of everyday activities.
- Disinfection of Cots/Cribs and Bedding: Follow regional Public Health guidelines.

Remaining Health and Safety Measures in Child Care

Hand Hygiene, Respiratory Etiquette, Cleaning and Disinfecting

In accordance with local public health direction (see MOH Omicron Surge resource) and the Ministry's COVID 19 Operational Guidance (see resources) appropriate hand hygiene, respiratory etiquette, cleaning and disinfecting should continue.



Use of Masks, Personal Protective Equipment

Kids Zone continues to require masking for any adult that enters the centre, this can change at any time based on the COVID environment. Eye protection for staff is no longer required per community health recommendations.

Cohorting

Cohorting and distancing will no longer be required for indoor or outdoor activities.

Screening

Daily confirmation of screening for children and staff/provider will no longer be required. Individuals should continue to self-screen every day before attending child care using the Ministry's Online School and Childcare Screening Tool and follow the RESULTS with directions for attendance. Please see resources section for the link.

Management of Children/Staff with COVID-19 Related Symptoms

If **ANY ONE** of the symptoms related to COVID-19 are present in a child,

- Isolate the child with symptoms immediately from other children and staff into a separate room/area. If a separate room is not available, the sick child should be kept separated from others at a minimum distance of 2 meters in a supervised area until they can go home.
- The child should be supervised by only one staff person until the child leaves while maintaining a physical distance of 2-meters if possible.
- Ensure the child wears a surgical-type or non-medical face mask (if tolerated) to cover the child's nose and mouth. Cloth face coverings should not be placed on children under age 2 or on anyone who has trouble breathing, is unconscious, or otherwise unable to remove the mask without assistance.
- The staff caring for the child should also wear a face mask and eye-protection (goggles or face-shield). Hands must be washed before and after taking off a mask.
- In addition, staff should perform hand hygiene and attempt to not touch their face with unwashed hands. Disposable gloves may be used when there is close contact with the child. Staff must ensure that they wash their hands or use hand sanitizer (if hands not visibly soiled) immediately upon removal of the gloves. The most important measures are proper hand hygiene and maintaining a 2-meter distance as much as possible.
- Respiratory etiquette should also be practiced while the child is waiting to be picked up
- Increase ventilation if possible (e.g. open windows)
- Keep the child comfortable by providing a separate cot and toys. Clean and disinfect the cot and all toys after the child leaves the center.
- Staff will notify the parent/guardian to arrange for immediate pick-up of the child. If a parent cannot be reached, an emergency contact person will be contacted to pick up the child.
- Staff will document the symptoms observed, the date and time that symptoms occurred, and the program room the child attended in the Illness report.



- Once the child has been picked up, the Supervisor will ensure that the room/area where child was separated to and any other areas/surfaces that the child had contact with are thoroughly cleaned and disinfected.
- Supervisor is to follow Regional COVID-19 health guidance for further direction on isolation/testing of ill individuals.

Any staff who presents with symptoms of COVID- as described in the **COVID-19 Screening Form for Staff** must not return to the center.

In the event that a staff person becomes ill while at the center:

- Staff should isolate themselves as quickly as possible until they are able to leave the center

Supervisor is to follow Regional COVID-19 health guidance for further direction on isolation/testing of ill individuals.

Positive Case of COVID-19

To continue ongoing monitoring of COVID-19 impacts, licensees will continue to be expected to report absenteeism rates to public health units should they rise to a defined level (approximately 30% above their baseline) if it is related to gastro symptoms or other than a specific known diagnosis.

If the Supervisor is notified that a staff person or child has tested positive for COVID-19, the following steps will be taken:

- Continue to exclude the person with the confirmed case from the center until further notice.
- Supervisor will follow Regional public Health guidelines.
- Supervisor will notify janitorial staff to increase cleaning and disinfecting practices.

Reporting (Communication Plan)

- Refer to regional COVID-19 child care reporting guidelines for further reporting requirements

Parent Communication

When there is more than approximately 30% absenteeism in a program that is not related to a specific known diagnosis, Supervisor will communicate necessary information to the families of children attending the center based on the guidelines of the regional public health.

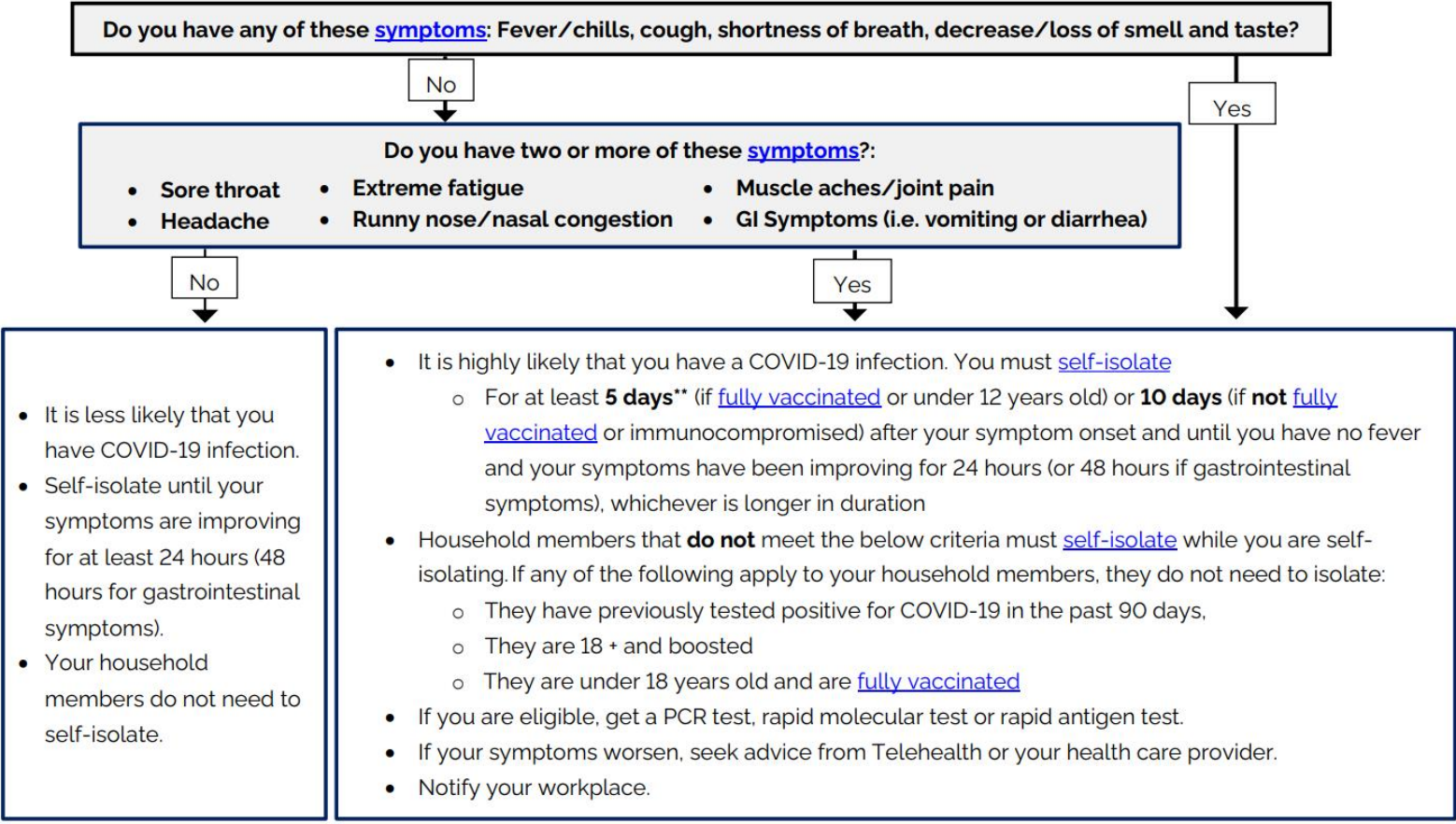
Closure of Child Care Center

The decision to close the child care center will depend on several factors and will be determined on a case-by-case basis in consultation with Public Health.

Further Useful Resources

- [Ministry of Education - On-line School and Childcare Screening Tool](#)
- [Ministry of Health - Omicron Surge, Version 3.0 – March 9, 2022 \(amended March 28, 2022\)](#)
- [Ministry of Education COVID-19 Operational Guidance for Childcare](#)

You have symptoms and are concerned you may have COVID-19. Now what?



Note: Symptoms should not be related to any other known causes or conditions. See the [COVID-19 Reference Document for Symptoms](#) for more information.
**For 10 days after symptom onset (or 20 days for immunocompromised individuals): maintain masking in public setting, do not visit or work in any highest risk setting, do not visit vulnerable individuals (e.g. immunocompromised individuals or seniors).