

Outbreak Management for COVID-19 Related Symptoms

(Revised December 1, 2021)

POLICY

To protect the health and well-being of children and their families and staff within ABC Montessori, all children will be monitored while in care for emerging signs or symptoms of any illness, including COVID-19. Children or staff who become ill while at school must be excluded from the school setting and return home as soon as possible, **regardless of their vaccination status.** The Supervisor must initiate the centre's illness management policies and the "Peel Public Health Guidance for Service Providers on Management of COVID-19 Cases in Child Care Settings".

if **ANY ONE** of the symptoms related to COVID-19 is present in a child or staff member, the individual must be immediately excluded from the child care setting and sent home.

Outbreaks should be declared in collaboration between the school and the local public health unit to ensure an outbreak number is provided.

Staff, parents/guardians, and children who are symptomatic or have been advised to self-isolate by the local public health unit, must not attend the program.

Effective May 14, 2021 , If the school becomes aware of an asymptomatic close contact in the child care setting, the school should close the classroom / grouping rather than wait for the test result of the asymptomatic close contact. If the asymptomatic close contact tests negative for COVID-19, the school may re-open the classroom/grouping.

Effective **Monday, December 21, 2020**, **child household members of impacted children whose classroom/grouping has been closed because of a positive case of COVID-19 will be directed to stay home** until the impacted child returns to child care or school. Although the non-exposed child household member should stay home, they do not need to self-isolate within the home or get tested unless the impacted child (i.e., close contact) becomes symptomatic or tests positive.

PROCEDURES

Health Checks for Children in Care

Staff must ensure that all children in care are monitored for illness, with a temperature taken as necessary, including for the following signs and symptoms of COVID-19:

New or worsening

- fever (37.8°C or higher) and/or chills
- cough or barking cough (croup)
- shortness of breath
- decrease or loss of taste or smell
- nausea, vomiting and/or diarrhea

Staff must ensure that hand hygiene is performed before and after each health check with each child. Staff are only required to conduct and document the health check or take a temperature if symptoms

are noted. Staff must document any symptoms observed on the child's [Illness Tracking Form](#).

Children Who Display COVID-19-Related Symptoms During Care

If the child has **ANY** new or worsening COVID-19 symptoms not related to other known causes or medical conditions, **all siblings (or any other children or staff who live in the same household) who attend a child care or school setting must also be excluded and stay home**. Individuals who have no symptoms and are fully vaccinated **or previously positive** do not need to stay home unless they are immunocompromised.

- Child should stay home to isolate immediately and be tested for COVID-19.
- Parents should contact their child's health care provider if unsure testing or another treatment is needed.
- Child cannot return to school until receiving a negative COVID-19 test result, has isolated for 10 days or has been given an alternate diagnosis from a health care provider (**a doctor's note is required**) and symptoms have resolved and child does not have a fever.

Staff are required to:

- Isolate the child with symptoms immediately from other children and staff into a separate room. 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/procedural mask (if tolerated) to cover the child's nose and mouth. Masks 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 ill child should wear a surgical/procedural mask, eye protection (i.e. safety glasses, goggles or face shield), gloves and gown and not interact with others. Hands must be washed before and after taking off a mask. **Staff must be trained in the proper use of PPE.**
- In addition, staff should perform hand hygiene and attempt to not touch their face with unwashed hands. Disposable gloves should 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. Tissues should be provided to the child and disposed of properly after use in a lined, covered garbage container. Staff should avoid contact with the child's respiratory secretions.
- 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 centre.
- Staff will notify the parent/guardian to arrange for immediate pick-up of the child (and siblings if applicable). 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 on the [Illness Tracking Form](#).
- Once the child has been picked up, the Supervisor will identify any contaminated areas and ensure that any rooms/areas and any surfaces and materials that the child had contact with and any surfaces within 2 metres of the ill child are thoroughly cleaned and disinfected as soon as reasonably possible. All items used by the child that cannot be cleaned (e.g. paper, books, cardboard puzzles) should be removed and stored in a sealed container for a minimum of 7 days.

- Contaminated areas will be cleaned and disinfected as per the “Cleaning and Disinfecting” protocols described in the ABC Montessori “General Sanitary Practices and Physical Distancing Measures to Prevent the Spread of COVID-19 Policy.
- Communication protocols to update and inform necessary stakeholders within the school community while maintaining confidentiality of the ill individual should be initiated.
- Regular school operation can continue unless directed otherwise by the local public health unit.

Staff Who Display COVID-19-Related Symptoms While at Work

Any staff person who presents with symptoms of COVID-19 including fever, new or worsening cough or shortness of breath and other symptoms as described in the **COVID-19 Active Screening Form for Staff** must not return to the school. If a staff person becomes ill while at the school:

- Staff should isolate themselves as quickly as possible until they are able to leave the school and wear a surgical/procedural mask covering the nose and mouth and eye protection.
- COVID-19 testing may be required for any staff experiencing symptoms before returning to work.
- The Supervisor will advise the staff to get tested and self-isolate.

When to Notify Peel Public Health, Parents/Guardians, Ministry of Education

Peel Public Health

- There is a positive case of COVID-19 and the school has not yet been contacted by Peel Public Health.
 - If there is a positive rapid screening antigen test in an asymptomatic person without a known COVID-19 exposure, consult with Peel Public Health to determine if a classroom/grouping closure is needed.
 - When individuals who were previously positive are symptomatic and test positive for COVID-19 again, consult with Peel Public Health prior to closing the classroom/grouping to enable additional lab analysis for other viruses.
- When there is a probable case of COVID-19 (a symptomatic child or staff who is a close contact of a positive case).
- When there is a child attending the school who is an asymptomatic close contact (a child who has no symptoms and is a close contact of a positive case) and is not getting tested for COVID-19.
- In a school / **Child Care Centre**, when there is an unusual number of staff and/or children who become sick at the school, including non-COVID related illnesses (see pg. 18 in the [Preventing and Managing Illnesses in Child Care Centres guideline](#)).
- In a school / **Child Care Centre**, when there is an unusual occurrence such as a flood, fire, sewage back-up, etc.

Parents/Guardians, Staff and Others in a Shared Setting

- When there is a confirmed COVID-19 case in the school setting, the school must notify parents/guardians/caregivers and staff.
 - **Schools / Child Care Service Providers should follow the closure and communication process outlined in Appendix 1.1**

- If the **Child Care Centre** is located in a shared setting (e.g. child care centre for children under 4 years old located in a school, follow Peel Public Health’s advice on notifying others using the shared space of a confirmed or probable case.

Ministry of Education

- In accordance with the Ministry of Education’s [Operational Guidance for Child Care During COVID-19 Outbreak](#) document, child care licensees are required to submit serious occurrences for a confirmed case of COVID-19.
- A serious occurrence is required to be submitted under the category “**confirmed case of COVID-19**” when one of the following individuals has a **confirmed** case of COVID-19 (i.e. a positive COVID-19 test result):
 - a **child who receives child care** at a home child care premises or child care centre;
 - a **staff** member at a child care centre;
 - a **student** at a home child care premises or child care centre.

While Service Providers are no longer required to report a serious occurrence for suspected cases; if the local public health unit determines a full or partial closure is required, a serious occurrence report must be submitted under the “Unplanned Disruption of Service” category.

Service Providers should refer to the [Operational Guidance for Child Care During COVID-19 Outbreak](#) regarding all serious occurrence reporting requirements.

When to report occupationally-acquired illness in Child Care

- If the staff person’s illness is determined to be work-related – in accordance with the *Occupational Health and Safety Act* and its regulations – the school must provide a written notice within four days of being advised that the staff person has an occupational illness, including an occupationally-acquired infection, or if a claim has been made to the Workplace Safety and Insurance Board (WSIB) by or on behalf of the staff with respect to an occupational illness, including an occupational infection, to the:
 - Ministry of Labour

Instructions for a Child or Staff with Confirmed COVID-19 Illness

What happens if there is a positive case of COVID-19 in a school / child care grouping/classroom?

Peel Public Health is notified of all confirmed cases of COVID-19 by the testing laboratory. Peel Public Health follows up with all confirmed cases and exposure sites to provide direction. Public Health will contact the school if a case, contact(s) or exposure is associated with the setting.

If the school is notified that an individual who attended the school setting (e.g. staff person, child, parent/guardian/caregiver) has **tested positive for COVID-19**, the following steps will be immediately taken:

Follow the process outlined in the attached document “Peel Public Health Guidance for Service Providers on Management of COVID-19 Cases in Child Care Settings)”

Note that no children in the child care setting should be changing classes/groups when there are COVID-19 exposures actively being investigated in the child care setting.

Refer to “General Sanitary Precautions and Physical Distancing Measures to Prevent the Spread of COVID-19” Policy

- An outbreak may be declared by Peel Public Health when: within a 14-day period, there are two or more laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 cases in children, staff/LHCC providers or other visitors with an epidemiological link (e.g., cases in the same grouping/classroom, cases that are part of the same before/after school care group) where at least one case could have reasonably acquired their infection in the EYCC setting. Outbreaks should be declared in collaboration between the Service Provider and Peel Public Health.
- Public Health will work with the Service Provider to determine whether epidemiological links exist between cases and whether transmission may have occurred in the EYCC setting.

***Asymptomatic close contacts** are children/staff who have no symptoms but had close contact with a positive COVID-19 case.

Closure of the school setting

The decision to close the entire school setting will depend on several factors and will be determined on a case-by-case basis in consultation with Peel Public Health. Case scenarios could include but are not limited to a case with an ill staff person with exposure to multiple children/households* in different classrooms/programs.

Peel Public Health is currently reviewing the criteria for when to close child care centres. Several factors would be taken into consideration including vaccination rates of eligible individuals at the centres and transmission of COVID-19 occurring in more than one classroom/grouping. All closures would be subject to consultation with the Associate Medical Officer of Health.

Peel Public Health Contact Information

For Reporting Positive or Probable COVID-19 Cases

To report a positive or probable COVID-19 case, use the incident reporting form on the [child care web page](#) or the [EarlyON web page](#).

To report a child attending child care who is an asymptomatic close contact of a positive case, not fully vaccinated/not previously positive and is not getting tested for COVID-19, contact PPH via ZZGCOVIDChildCareExposures@peelregion.ca. Provide your contact information and request for a call back. Do not include personal health information in the e-mail.

Further guidance for child care service providers is outlined in the [Peel Public Health Guidance for Service Providers on Management of COVID-19 Cases in Child Care Settings](#).

For Reporting Unusual Occurrences and Other Public Health-Related Questions

For Child Care Centres, when there is an unusual number of staff and/or children who become sick at the centre including non-COVID related illnesses or when there is an unusual occurrence such as a flood, fire, or sewage back-up, please notify Peel Public Health.

Contact:

- 905-799-7700; Toll-free: 1-888-919-7800
- Caledon: 905-584-2216

Call Centre Business Hours:

- 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., Monday to Friday
- **Please Note:** from 8:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. you may encounter a delay during this time.

When calling, please indicate that you are a **licensed child care centre, licensed home child care provider/Agency or EarlyON Centre**.

COVID-19 Community Testing Locations and Assessment Centres

For information on COVID-19 Assessment Centres including testing criteria, hours of operation and procedures, visit the Provincial website: <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/assessment-centre-locations/>.

For information on COVID-19 testing locations in Peel, visit:

<https://www.peelregion.ca/coronavirus/testing/#locations>

Please Note:

- Since the hours and testing criteria/eligibility for testing locations may change, please contact the testing centre or visit their website to confirm.
- Not all locations will test infants/young children. Call the testing site to confirm that they will test infants/young children.
- Testing is free for everyone. Gentler testing options (e.g., saliva testing) may be available at certain locations.
- Rapid antigen tests (e.g., PanBio™) **should not** be used for anyone exposed to someone with COVID-19 or anyone who has symptoms as they are less accurate than lab-based tests. Lab-based tests are available at community or hospital testing sites listed on the websites listed above.