

## COVID-19 POLICY

The intent of this policy is to set out expectations and guidance for staff and families during Covid-19.

In order to meet operational guidance requirements by the Ministry of Education during the Covid-19 outbreak, the following requirements and documents will be utilized by all staff working at Fort Erie Co-operative Preschool.

### POLICY

#### 1. Covid-19 Child Care Center Operations Protocol

The Operational Guidance During Covid-19 Outbreak CHILD CARE RE-OPENING Version 6-June 2021 has set new operational measures that are required in order to safely re-open child care.

##### Definitions:

CCEYA: Child Care and Early Years Act, 2014

PPE: Personal Protective Equipment

NRPH: Niagara Region Public Health Unit

RECE: Registered Early Childhood Educator

##### Staffing

- Child care settings are permitted to operate with maximum group sizes as set out under the Child Care and Early Years Act, 2014, (CCEYA).
- Staff and post-secondary students should work in one location where possible.
- Interaction with multiple groups should be avoided as much as possible.
- While groups are permitted to return to the previous maximum group size under the CCEYA (maximum group size prior to COVID-19), each group should stay together throughout the day and as much as possible and should not mix with other groups.
- This does not apply to Resource Consultants supporting the program however, Resource Consultants must wear medical masks and eye protection (PPE) while in the child care centre and must maintain physical distance of 2 meters from children whenever possible.
- Movement of supervisors/designates should be limited between rooms and only when necessary.
- Room licensing and ratios expectations must be maintained as set out in the CCEYA.
- Reduced ratios are permitted as set out under the CCEYA provided that groups are not mixed and that reduced ratios are not permitted at any time for infants.
- Students on field placement should be assigned to work at only one location.

##### Staff Schedules

- Supervisors and Lead RECEs will work together to set staff scheduling and implement with the child care centre teams to ensure Staff, children, and groups are set and maintained whenever possible.
- Supply/replacement staff should be assigned to a specific group so as to limit staff interaction with multiple groups.

- Staff schedules may be required to be adjusted based on operational needs and hours of care that families will require.
- Supervisors and Lead RECEs will schedule breaks and lunches in a staggered format, ensuring that lesser number of staff are breaking in the staff room at one time. This ensures adequate room for physical distancing, 2 meter distance, in staff rooms.
- PPE is required in the staff room whenever a staff is up and moving (not seated) in the staffroom and at any time the 2 meter distance cannot be maintained. Whenever possible a buffer of additional space should be incorporated into the seating plan.
- Staff are required to wear their PPE in staff rooms at all times whenever the 2 meter physical distance from others cannot be maintained, including when someone is present in the staffroom and is eating. . Eye protection and medical masks must be worn at all times in the staff room if the 2 meter distance cannot be maintained.

### **Screening Staff**

- Screener should maintain a 2 meter distance from those being screened whenever possible.
- Screeners must wear PPE (medical mask, eye protection), at all times while transitioning children to/from the CCC and while completing cleaning and disinfection duties in the CCC. Exception would be if cleaning/disinfecting a room where there are no children or staff present. However PPE (mask and eye protection) must be worn to and from the room (i.e. hallways) and anytime there is a chance that staff or children could enter a room or space.
- PPE must be properly and safely stored and readily accessible in the event children or staff entered an occupied area at all times. All donning and doffing procedures must be followed as well including hand hygiene prior to donning and after doffing a mask.
- All entrances should have alcohol-based hand rub with a concentration of 60-90% (best practice is 70% or above) available with signage demonstrating appropriate use.
- Alcohol based hand rub should not be accessible to children (i.e., not within their reach) and children should be supervised when using the hand rub.

### ***Guidance on Use of Masks (within 48 hours of vaccination):***

- If a child, child care staff, placement student or visitor 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, and no other symptoms as indicated in the COVID-19 Child Care Screening Tool, they may continue to attend the child care program if they are feeling well enough to do so.
- These individuals are to wear a properly fitted mask for their entire time in the child care setting. Their mask may only be removed to consume food or drink and the individual must remain at least two metres away from others when their mask has been removed.
- If the mild headache, fatigue, muscle aches, and/or joint pain symptoms worsen, continue past 48 hours, or if the individual develops other symptoms, they should leave the child care setting immediately, or if in a home setting the home care provider should no longer offer care, to self-isolate and seek COVID-19 testing.
- In addition, if any household members are experiencing any new COVID-19 symptoms and/or are waiting for COVID-19 test results after experiencing symptoms, the child, child care centre staff, provider or placement student must not attend child care. (This direction does not pertain to those who received a COVID-19 vaccination in the last 48 hours and are experiencing mild headache, fatigue, muscle aches, and/or joint pain that only began after vaccination, and no other symptoms.)

### ***Visitors/Attendance***

- Daily records must be kept of anyone entering the child care centre.
- No non-essential visitors admitted to the child care centre.
- The Visitor Log Book will be maintained and recorded on the COVID-19 Outbreak Visitor Log Form.
- These records must include the name, contact information, time of arrival and departure, screening completion/results of the visitor.
- Records must be kept, up-to-date, and available to facilitate contact tracing in the event of a confirmed COVID-19 case of outbreak.
- For the purpose of contact tracing, Screen Tracking Forms and Children's Monthly Attendance will be reviewed as required by NRPH in the event there is an individual tied to the CCC that has tested positive with COVID-19.
- Completed Screen Tracking Forms will be stored in the supervisor office.
- Completed Monthly Children's Attendances will be stored in the supervisor office.
- The records are to be maintained on site.
- Orientations/ meetings with families will take place by video, or telephone.
- As much as possible, parents should not enter the premises. If drop off/screening/pick up routines can occur outside of the CCC, they should.
- If access to the CCC is required, parents should not be permitted past the screening area unless a child is having separation anxieties. In the event that a parent is required to enter the program, a Health Care Screen must be completed on the parent and the parent must also wear a medical mask which will be provided by the CCC. Parents should be discouraged from entering the CCC wherever possible.
- Volunteers will not be permitted during the pandemic.
- Students completing post-secondary educational placements will be permitted to enter child care settings and should only attend one child care setting and be assigned to one work location. Students will be required to follow all COVID-19 policy and protocols including the use of PPE (masks and eye protection).
- Group events will be not be permitted at the CCC e.g.: family nights, community meetings etc.
- In-person meetings should be conducted via video or telephone wherever possible.

### ***Physical Distancing with Children***

- Maintaining a welcoming and caring environment for children is imperative while following HDLH and pedagogy in child care programs.
- For support and ideas on how to provide an engaging environment while physically distancing please see the document Building On How Does Learning Happen? by following this link: [Building on How Does Learning Happen?](#)
- Each group must have their own assigned indoor space, separated from all other groups by a physical barrier. The purpose of the barrier is to reduce the spread of respiratory droplets that are thought to transmit COVID-19 and to reinforce physical distancing requirements between groups as indicated in the Operational Guidelines.
- When in the same common space (e.g., entrances, hallways) physical distancing of at least 2 meters must be maintained between different groups and should be encouraged, where possible, between children within the same group by:
- Spreading children out into different areas, particularly at meal and dressing time;

- Staff should consider ways to support meal times (snack & lunch) in a safe manner (i.e., a space where staff can maintain at least 2 meters to remove masks and eat) as best you can.
- Staff need to ensure that if their mask is off to eat during snack or mealtime with the children, they are positioned at least 2 meters away from the children.
- Eye protection must be worn during meal and snack time.
- Staff must wear their PPE (mask and eye protection) while serving the children their food.
- Incorporating more individual activities or activities that encourage more space between children ; and
- Using visual cues to promote physical distancing.

Staff must wear medical masks and eye protection at all times when with the children with the exception of:

- Sleep time when the children are settled and staff can keep the 2 metre physical distance.
- Meal time where distance of 2 meters is maintained.
- PPE must be properly and safely stored and readily accessible in the event that an interaction with a child or staff is immediately required. All donning and doffing procedures must be followed as well including hand hygiene prior to donning and after doffing a mask.
- Best practice is to wear PPE (mask and eye protection) at all times while in the CCC. The wearing of PPE, cleaning your hands often, practice physical distancing (2 metres), avoid sharing personal items and cleaning and disinfecting of high touch surfaces regularly, will help to prevent the spread of infectious diseases.
- Only one group should access the washroom at a time and it is recommended that the facilities be cleaned and disinfected in between each use, particularly if different groups will be using the same washroom.
- Recognizing that physical distancing is difficult with small children and infants, additional suggestions include:
  - When possible, moving activities outside to allow for more space.
  - Planning activities that do not involve shared objects or toys.
  - Mouthed toys must be removed immediately after the child is finished using them, for cleaning and disinfecting and must not be shared with other children.
  - Label items with child's name to discourage accidental sharing.
- There will be flexibility with time requirements for outdoor play to mitigate challenges with accessing space and /or rotating children on playgrounds.
- The use of masks is not required outdoors for adults or children if physical distancing of at least 2 meters can be maintained between individuals.
- When outside, staff should put on PPE for any instances where prolonged close contact may occur, such as when a child injures themselves and requires attention. Staff must be sure that PPE is stored properly and safely while outdoors and is easily accessible in the event it is required immediately (sudden instances).
- Staff should have areas set in the playground where they position themselves that will allow supervision of all children while being able to maintain the 2 meter distance.

### ***Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)***

- Will align with the Ministry of Health guidelines.

- The expectation is that upon entering the child care setting that eye protection and medical mask are worn (i.e. Staff must have both pieces of PPE on once leaving the screening area).
- Medical Masks
- All adults, including students, working in a child care setting are required to wear medical masks and eye protection while inside in the premises, including hallways and staff room.
- When adults are required to enter the child care centre into the screening area (including parents dropping off/picking up children) will be required to wear masks or face covering. This does not apply to those who are unable to wear a mask or face covering as a result of a medical condition or a disability.
- All other adults (i.e., parents/guardians, and visitors) are required to wear a face covering or non-medical mask while inside the premises.
- All areas past the screening area will be designated as the “child care centre” for staff/students and PPE (mask and eye protection) protocols will be followed as outlined below.
- Staff will be provided 2 medical masks per shift which will be disposed of at the end of each shift to lower the risk of cross contamination.
- Staff always have access to a back-up mask in the event their masks become contaminated, dropped, break etc...
- Masks and eye protection must be stored safely in the container when not in use.
- Containers must be cleaned and disinfected by the individual using the container throughout the day.
- “Hot Zones” where masks must be worn at all times:
  - Playroom when children are occupying the room.
  - Sleep room when settling children.
  - Hallways.
  - Staffrooms, when not eating and physical distancing of 2 meters is not maintained.
  - Staff rooms when moving around (not seated).
  - When cleaning and disinfecting blood or bodily fluid spills if there is a risk of splashing.
  - When caring for a sick child or a child showing symptoms of illness.
  - Any time staff are within a 2 meter physical distance of another individual, including children, staff, students, visitors.
  - Families are required to wear masks when entering the child care centre/screening area at both drop off and pick up times if they enter the child care centre.
  - All essential visitors to the program must wear a mask.
  - All post-secondary students in the program must wear masks and eye protection, same as required by the staff.
- Reasonable exceptions to the requirement of wearing masks may be considered, e.g. indoors where a physical distance of at least 2 meters can be maintained between individuals as noted under reasonable exceptions, situations wherever a child cannot tolerate a mask, or reasonable exceptions for medical conditions.
- It is best to limit donning and doffing of PPE as much as possible, as it is during these times that accidental transmission may occur. Be sure that doffing is occurring appropriately (i.e staff are not wearing their gowns throughout the CCC as opposed to doffing it before leaving the isolation room).
- PPE must be properly and safely stored and readily accessible in the event that an interaction with a child or staff is immediately required. All donning and doffing procedures must be followed as well including hand hygiene prior to donning and after doffing a mask.
- Reasonable exceptions may include:

- When supervisors are in their office alone, or if a staff enters the office and maintains the 2 meter physical distance (staff should knock and make supervisor aware they are entering the space prior to entering).
- When supervisor and second staff (Lead RECE or Program Assistant) are working in the office together and 2 meter physical distance is maintained. PPE (mask and eye protection) must be worn if not seated.
- Administration space where 2 meter physical distance is maintained. PPE (mask and eye protection) must be worn if not seated.
- Dietary staff working alone in the kitchen (staff should knock and make dietary staff aware they are entering the space prior to entering).
- Custodians working alone or in areas where the children or staff are not occupying.
- RECEs in the sleep room (masks are permitted to be removed once children are settled and staff are able to maintain the 2 meter physical distance).
- Break or lunch room where 2 meter physical distance is maintained PPE (mask and eye protection) must be worn if not seated.
- When staff are eating or drinking with the children and a 2 meter physical distance is maintained.
- Staff must be rigorous about maintaining physical distance during all of these possible exceptions.

Masks are mandatory for all children in grades 1-12 and encouraged for younger children (aged 2 to SK), subject to reasonable exceptions.

***Guidance on Use of Masks (within 48 hours of vaccination):***

- If a child care staff or placement student received a COVID-19 vaccination in the last 48 hours and has mild headache, fatigue, muscle aches and/or joint pain that only began after immunization, and no other symptoms, they are to wear a properly fitted mask for their entire time in the child care setting. Their mask may only be removed to consume food or drink and the individual must remain at least two metres away from others when their mask has been removed.
- If a child received a COVID-19 vaccination in the last 48 hours and has mild headache, fatigue, muscle aches and/or joint pain that only began after immunization, and no other symptoms, they are to wear a properly fitted mask for their entire time in the child care setting. Their mask may only be removed to consume food or drink and the child must remain at least two metres away from others when their mask has been removed.

**Staff must follow proper donning, doffing and storage procedures each time the mask is removed.** This includes but not limited to:

- Washing or sanitizing hands prior to putting mask on.
- Washing or sanitizing your hands immediately after taking mask off.
- Masks must be stored in a plastic container with a lid.
  - Remove mask by only touching the ear loops.
  - Place the mask in the centre of a clean plastic container.
  - Ear loops will hang over the outside of the container.
  - The lid will be placed on until staff ready to don the mask.

- All containers must be labelled with name and cleaned and disinfected frequently (i.e., after use)
- Masks must not be stored on your person (i.e., pockets) or on other surfaces (I. e., staff room table).
- Dispose mask in a closed bin/garbage.
- Do not put the mask on around your neck or up on your forehead.
- Do not touch the outside of your mask and if you do, wash or sanitize your hands immediately.
- If mask becomes wet or visibly soiled, it will need to be replaced.

Environmental Health Information line will answer questions regarding process for storage by calling 905-688-8248, ext. 7590 or [Email Environmental Health](#).

Niagara Region Public Health Re-opening Child Care Centres During COVID-19 support:

[Child Care Centres During COVID-19](#)

### **Public Health Recommended Steps for PPE**

- When wearing masks:
  - Follow the Niagara Region Fact sheet for donning and doffing a mask/face covering and for proper procedure. “COVID-19 Face Coverings for Non-healthcare Workers”, see link below as well as proper hand hygiene.
  - Staff will read fact sheets and watch videos to ensure proper use.

### **Eye Protection (Face Shields & Goggles/Safety Glasses)**

- All adults, including students, working in a child care setting are required to wear medical masks and eye protection while inside in the premises, including hallways and staff rooms when not seated with physical distancing.
- Staff will be assigned 1 face shield and pair of goggles/safety glasses specifically for their use as well as a storage container.
- Masks and eye protection must be stored properly and safely in the container when not in use. Staff will be required to label their face shield and goggles/safety glasses.
- Face shields and goggles/safety glasses must be cleaned and disinfected daily and at any time they are contaminated.
- The manufacturer directions should be followed for cleaning and disinfection to avoid damage to the plastic.
- If no cleaning instructions are provided, clean with detergent, rinse and the disinfected based on contact time of the chemical.
- Face shields and goggles/safety glasses, should be cleaned from the inside (least contaminated) to the outside (most contaminated).
- Avoid getting the foam forehead piece and strap wet on face shields, as they may be damaged by chemicals.

- Dispose of visibly soiled or damaged.
- “Hot Zones” where eye protection must be worn at all times:
  - Are the same as the medical mask expectations (see above).
- Eye glasses are not considered eye protection.

**\*\*\* The use of medial masks and eye protection is for the safety of child care staff and the children in their care. This very important when working with young children who may not be wearing face coverings (i.e. under the age of two).**

**\*\*\* Child Care centres should secure and sustain an amount of PPE (including but not limited to face shields or goggles, medial masks, gloves etc.) and cleaning supplies that can support their current and ongoing operations.**

### **Gowns**

- Disposable gowns or cloth smocks are required when assisting ill children when the 2 meter physical distancing can't be maintained.
- Disposable gowns are to be discarded immediately after use.
- Smocks are to be laundered in hot water and placed in a high heat dryer immediately after each use. Be sure that soiled laundry is maintained in a specific area to lessen the risk of possible contamination across multiple surfaces and best practice is to launder immediately whenever possible.
- Ensure that smocks are properly stored in a sealed container to limit the possibility of contamination.
- Emergency containers with a supply of PPE items required in the event that an individual becomes ill, should be readily available containing: one lab coat or disposable gown (if able), medical mask, gloves, eye protection with facial tissues (Kleenex) and ABHR accessible in the immediate area that care is taking place . This will ensure quick and timely access to required PPE and immediate access if eye protection or medical mask become soiled during the 1:1 care of the ill individual.

### **Staff Training**

- Staff will receive updates through COVID-19 Update emails.
- Staff will access current information from the [Niagara Region COVID page](#)
- All staff must be trained on the proper use face coverings which will include but not limited to:
- [Fact Sheet and FAQs Face Coverings for Non-Healthcare Workers](#)
- [Eye Protection for non-Healthcare Settings](#)
- [Putting on One Piece Facial Protection](#)
- [Putting on Mask and Eye Protections](#)
- [How to Wash Hands](#)
- [How to Rub Hands with Sanitizer](#)
- [Putting Gloves On](#)
- [Taking off Gloves](#)

Taking Off PPE-open in google chrome only

[Taking Off PPE -Opens in Google Chrome Only](#)

All staff that are included in the ratios must have valid certification in Standard First Aid Training, including Infant and Child CPR required for staff that are included in the ratios. Please reference the Operational Guidance During COVID-19 Outbreak guide for further information for extensions that may be supported by the Workplace Safety and Insurance Board (WSIB) [WSIB First Aid and CPR](#) .

### **Vulnerable Sector Checks (VSC)**

VSCs are required to be obtained from staff and other persons who are interacting with children on the premises.

If an individual is unable to obtain a VSC in a reasonable amount of time due to significant backlogs, they must ensure the individual has applied for a VSC and put in place additional measures as set out in their reference check policy.

**\*\* See the Operational Guidance During COVID-19 Outbreak, Child Care Re-opening for full details and expectations as per the Ministry of Education.**

[Operational Guidance for Child Care During COVID-19 Outbreak V. 6 -June 2021](#)

## **2. Covid-19 Cleaning Protocols for Child Care Operations**

This procedure has been put in place ensure that the staff of the child care centre are following enhanced cleaning and disinfecting procedures. Regular, repeated cleaning and disinfection of high touch, multi-use work surfaces must be performed.

### **Definitions:**

NRPH: Niagara Region Public Health

RECE: Registered Early Childhood Educator

MEDU: Ministry of Education

### **PROCEDURE**

- All Children's Services staff, including RECEs, Dietary staff, Support staff, Screener's, Resource Consultants and Child Care Custodians are required to follow the cleaning and disinfecting protocols indicated on the Niagara Region Public Health [Novel Coronavirus Update](#) website.
- Specifically the recommendations for cleaning and disinfecting under Public Settings link for [Cleaning and Disinfecting](#).
- Please refer to Public Health Ontario's Environmental Cleaning fact sheet and the Public Services Health and Safety Association's Child Care Centre Employer Guideline for additional information on cleaning.
- All Children's Services staff including RECEs, Dietary staff and Child Care Custodians will follow direction from Public Health's Child Care Manual (outbreaks) at [Public Health's Child Care Manual](#).

**Opening Staff:** \* *The centre will be cleaned and disinfected nightly. Completing these following steps again at opening assist in ensuring the building is clean and ready for operation.*

Opening staff will:

Clean and disinfect the inside and outside door handle upon arrival.

- Sanitize their hands with Alcohol-Based Hand Rub (ABHR). Niagara Region Public Health expectation is at least 60-90% alcohol (minimum 70% is preferred).
- NRPH signage must be displayed at all ABHR stations.
- Clean and disinfect all frequently touch surfaces including, but not limited to railings, door handles, light switches while moving about the building as required.
- Complete water flushing daily/ weekly (operational standard requirement)
- Ensure the Coronavirus “Stop “sign is posted at the entrance to the child care centre and screening station.
- Ensure the screening table is cleaned and disinfected with approved cleaning products. This will include but not limited to disinfectant wipes or spray and then set up with hand sanitizer (not accessible to children), Health Check Screening checklist/IPad and pens that have been disinfected. Additional supplies or equipment may be required as directed by NRPH or MEDU.
- Set up playrooms as required, gather toys and equipment that was left from the night before that has been disinfected and redistribute to playrooms as necessary.
- Groups and staff are not to be mixed with other groups at the beginning and end of the day whenever possible.

### ***Operating Hours***

The Childcare Custodian/Screeners-Cleaner/child care staff will implement enhanced cleaning and disinfecting procedures, which will include, but not be limited to:

- Repeated cleaning and disinfecting, including the staff room, of frequently touched surfaces. This includes door handles, knobs, railings, family/client contact counters/tables, desks, phones, toilet and hand faucets, gates, playground door handles etc. tops and underneath of tables, chairs and any other items that the Supervisor may direct to be cleaned.
- Toys and equipment will be cleaned and disinfected after each group use; children are directed to wash hands in between each activity wherever possible. Contaminated items are to be placed in buckets to isolate items until they are cleaned and disinfected.
- Disinfecting of toys will be documented on the disinfection log sheet.
- Children’s washrooms or shared spaces or equipment should be cleaned and disinfected between each group/each use by a group and only one group at a time should access the shared space/equipment.
- The Pandemic Custodian Checklist (see COVID-19 Policy for form) will be completed daily, ongoing throughout the day, by custodians, Screeners-Cleaner or staff that have completed the enhanced cleaning and disinfecting duties.
- Staff will follow outbreak procedures as recommended by Public Health. Plush toys and items not easily cleaned and disinfected must be removed from the child care centre. Books and puzzles may be used, as long as they are disinfected if able to. Books and puzzles must not be shared between groups.

However in the event an individual is a suspected positive case, these items must be removed and secured in a sealed bag for seven days. Sensory tables are permitted to be used in the program with hand washing or sanitizer before and after each use.

- If soap and water is not available, Alcohol Based Hand Rub (60% to 90% content, 70% and higher is best practice) is to be used by all staff and children prior to moving to another area of the childcare e.g. Moving from playroom to cubby area, moving from cubby area to outdoor activities or whenever transition is made, when possible.
- If at any time staff notice items that are visibly soiled, they will immediately clean and disinfect the area and if necessary, notify the custodian or Screener/Cleaner for enhanced cleaning and disinfection, this includes bodily fluids, food or outside dirt.
- Items requiring laundering **MUST** be washed in hot water and bleach should be used if possible. During the drying process, high heat should be used.
- Custodians will complete their regular checklist and will ensure that they notify the Supervisor when inventory is starting to deplete, recognizing challenges may occur with back orders.
- Screener-Cleaners will ensure they notify the Supervisor when inventory is starting to deplete, recognizing challenges may occur with back orders.
- Playgrounds must be disinfected before each use including interior and exterior doors, handles and gates, whenever possible. Toys that are used outside must be cleaned and disinfected, as well as the high touch surfaces.
- Community purchases (grocery shopping) can be pre-ordered, paid, delivered or picked up.
- A bin can that can be easily cleaned and disinfected after each use can be used to transport groceries when disposable plastic bags are not available. Reusable bags are an additional option as long as they are maintained in a clean and sanitary manner.
- In the event that a staff need to grocery shop – dietary staff will need to ensure they keep physical distancing from other customers, while in the grocery store and selecting purchases. Masks must be worn and alcohol based hand sanitizer must be available while shopping.
- If space permits, physical distancing 6 feet (2 meters) between cots during nap time needs to take place. If spacing is limited, place children head to toe or toe to toe.

### ***Closing Staff***

- Groups and staff are not to be mixed with other groups at the end of the day whenever possible.
- When all children have been picked from each age group, staff will disinfect toys and equipment. If this task is completed prior to the staff's shift being completed, the staff will assist with additional cleaning as needed, as per the Pandemic Custodian Checklist.
- Rooms need to be prepared for operations in the morning and countertops must be cleared so the Custodian can focus on cleaning and disinfecting surfaces.
- Staff are responsible to ensure that the staff room is clean and all personal items need to be stored or taken home so that enhanced cleaning can take place.
- Staff should minimize the amount of personal items that they are bringing into the CCC.
- Custodians must clean and disinfect children's lockers each night (parents will be required to take all children's belongings home each day whenever possible).
- The screening table is cleaned and disinfected nightly.
- The Pandemic Custodian Checklist will be completed daily, ongoing throughout the day, by custodians or staff that have completed the enhanced cleaning and disinfecting duties.

### **Where an Individual is Suspected of Having COVID-19**

- Supervisor and staff will determine contaminated areas.
- Screener-Cleaner, custodian or RECE will carry out cleaning and disinfection of all affected areas, including timing, when to return to use, methods of cleaning, PPE to be used while cleaning, and waste disposal.
- Identify areas that may require cleaning plus disinfection (items used by the individual and all surfaces within 2 metres of the ill person) versus cleaning alone (such as a hallway or room where the individual has passed through).
- Use disposable cleaning equipment, such as disposable wipes, where possible as a best practice.
- Remove all items that cannot be cleaned (paper, books, etc.) and store them in a sealed container for a minimum of 7 days (label date of removal and date when can be returned).

### **Cleaning Products**

- Follow all direction provided by Public Health and the Public Health Inspector and product label and manufacture instruction for use.
- Be sure staff understand the differences between cleaning and disinfecting and that both practices are included in your process.
- Work closely with your supplier to determine which products will meet the needs of your environment.
- Reference the Public Health Child Care Manual Outbreak chapter for additional information regarding enhance cleaning protocols.
- For further Information regarding cleaning and disinfecting protocols, please see the following NRPH suggested websites:

[Cleaning and Disinfection for Public Settings](#)

[Guidance and Cleaning for Disinfection](#)

[Cleaning and Disinfecting of Public spaces During COVID-19](#)

### **Best practices for cleaning and disinfecting may include:**

- Which products to use, including disinfectants with Health Canada Drug Identification Numbers (DINs);
- How to clean and disinfect different materials, including minimum surface contact time; and:
- Other items to remember, including checking expiry dates of cleaning and disinfectant products and following the manufacturer's instructions.

\*\* See the **Operational Guidance During COVID-19 Outbreak, Child Care Re-opening** for full details and expectations as per the Ministry of Education at:

[Operational Guidance for Child Care During COVID-19 Outbreak V.6 -June 2021](#)

### 3. Covid-19 Illness/Exposure Protocol

This procedure must be followed by Children's Services staff in the event that a child, parent or staff member at the centre is exposed to COVID-19.

#### **Definitions:**

SO: Serious Occurrence

CCLS: Child Care Licensing System

MEDU: Ministry of Education

NRPH: Niagara Region Public Health

#### **PROCEDURE**

**In the event of exposure:** If a child, or anyone in the child's household is currently experiencing any new COVID-19 symptoms indicating that they are unwell, they should be sent home immediately to avoid spreading the illness. A child, or employee should not return to the program until they have been cleared to return by an appropriate medical professional, or has received a negative COVID-19 test result, or as prescribed by what is permissible under public health agency.

#### **In the event of a COVID-19 vaccination (within 48 hours):**

- **Screening Process:** If the child care staff, placement student, child or visitor 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, and no other symptoms, they should respond "no" in the screening tool and may continue to attend the child care program if they are feeling well enough to do so.
  - If the child care staff, placement student, child or visitor lives in a household with an individual who 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, and no other symptoms, they should respond "no" in the screening tool and are not required to self-isolate (stay home).
- **Masking:** If the child care staff, placement student, child or visitor received a COVID-19 vaccination in the last 48 hours and has mild headache, fatigue, muscle aches and/or joint pain that only began after immunization, and no other symptoms, they are to wear a properly fitted mask for their entire time in the child care setting. The mask may only be removed to consume food or drink and the individual must remain at least two metres away from others when their mask has been removed.
- **Isolation and Testing:** If the mild headache, fatigue, muscle aches, and/or joint pain symptoms worsen, continue past 48 hours, or if the individual develops other symptoms, they should leave the child care setting immediately to self-isolate and seek COVID-19 testing.

### **Screening for Symptoms**

- All individuals must self-screen every day before arrival at the child care setting.
- Individuals who do not pass the screening are not permitted to attend the program and must stay home.
- All ill individuals who has a known alternative diagnosis provided by a health care provider may return to child care if they do not have fever and their symptoms have been improving for at least 24 hours (i.e. if symptoms such as a runny nose can be attributed to other causes, such as seasonal allergies, individuals would answer “no” on the screen.
- All individuals, where a health care provider has told them that their symptom(s) are related to a chronic or pre-existing condition, may return to the child care centre, once they feel well enough, without waiting for symptoms to go away. (Where an individual does not pass the screening and is not permitted to attend the program, this does not need to be reported to the local public health unit.
- A check mark will be added on the daily attendance for each child to indicate a child care staff has viewed the “pass” screen of all electronic screens.
- All children and parents or approved visitors will be provide confirmation of a successful screen to a staff daily at the front.
- Families will be notified of the screening process during their orientation.
- Parents and guardians should be reminded of this requirement through visible signage at the entrances and drop-off areas.
- All staff, children and families must use hand sanitizer with Alcohol-Based Hand Rub (ABHR). Niagara Region Public Health expectation is at least 60-90% alcohol (minimum 70% is preferred alcohol content for other pathogens. Wherever possible keep with the minimum of 70%).
- Keep out of the reach of children upon entry into the child care centre and remain on the designated “X” positions on the floor if they enter the child care centre.
- PPE (medical masks and eye protection) must be worn by staff at all times and will be required when escorting the children from the screen areas and to their playroom.
- All children in grades 1 and above are required to wear a non-medical mask or face covering while inside a child care setting, including in hallways.
- All children in grades 1 and above are required to wear a non-medical mask or face covering outdoors when a distance of 2 metres cannot be maintained.
- Children younger than grade 1 are with parent direction, may wear a non-medical mask or face covering while inside a child care setting, including in hallways.
- Masks are not recommended for children under the age of two.
- See information about the use of masks on the provincial COVID-19 website.
- Parents/guardians are responsible for providing their child(ren) with a non-medical mask(s) or face covering each day and should be reminded that if children are wearing masks, they will require a way to store their mask when not in use.

If a household member 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, and no other symptoms as indicated in the COVID-19 Screening Tool, they are not required to self-isolate (stay home). If the symptoms worsen, continue past 48 hours, or if the individual develops other symptoms, they should immediately self-isolate and seek COVID-19 testing.

- COVID-19 current symptoms are listed on [Niagara Region Public Health's COVID-19](#) website, and the Health Check Screen is approved by Public Health.
- Electronic COVID-19 Screening can be used by children/staff/visitors arriving at the child care centre.
- The electronic screening option complies with the Ministry of Health's recommended set of health screening questions for school and child care.
- Verification for each individual will be required with a child care staff viewing the "pass" result saved on the smart device screen.
- Hard copy of screens will be available in the front entrance to the child care centre, in the screening area, in the event there are unforeseen technical issues.
- Viewing on of the electronic screen will be recorded on the Screen Tracking Form (see appendix E).
- Retention of Health Screen Checks are no longer required to be retained in hard copy form on site, as advised by the Ministry of Education. This aligns with the Province of Ontario's COVID-19 School and Child Care Screening Tool process.
- Children's Services and Direct Operations will follow Niagara Region's current Corporate Retention By-Laws regarding record keeping.
- If staff or child answer yes to any one of the questions, entry into the child care may not be permitted. They may be advised to contact their healthcare professional or self-refer for COVID-19 testing by contacting the Niagara Health Assessment Centre or to self-isolate for 10 days.

**Access additional information through:**

- [Niagara Health Assessment Centres](#)
- [Public Health Novel CORONAVIRUS \(COVID-19\)](#) link.
- COVID-19 Public Health Info Line : 905-688-8248<sup>(S)</sup> or 1-888-505-6074<sup>(S)</sup>, press 7 [COVID-19 Public Chat Link](#)
- Complete [Public Health's COVID-19 Self-Assessment](#)
- Only one family at a time will be permitted to be screened and adults must wear a mask or face covering if entering the premises into the screening area. This does not apply to those who are unable to wear a face covering or mask as a result of a medical condition or a disability. Whenever possible family members should not be permitted to enter the child care centre.
- Additional families awaiting entrance must wait outside of the building. They will be reminded to keep physical distancing space between each other while they wait.
- Markers every (2 meters) will be set up reminding people to keep a safe space.
- The system and front door handles must be disinfected in-between each family by the screening staff (See Cleaning and Disinfecting Protocol).
- Children will be transitioned to the playrooms by a staff, unless the child requires additional supports while transitioning from parent to CCC staff.
- At pick up times, parents will be required to wait outside or at the entrance for staff to accompany their child(ren) to the door. Only one family will be permitted in the entrance at a time.

**When an Individual Becomes Ill in a Child Care Setting**

The child, staff or student will be separated immediately from the other children and isolate in separate room. When a separate room is not available, the person who is symptomatic should be kept at a minimum of 2 meters from others.

- That staff assisting the ill child will wear medical mask, eye protection and disposable gown or clean, reusable smock (as advised by NRPH) and not interact with others. Gloves must be worn if there is direct contact with the child or their environment.
- If tolerated and above the age of 2 the ill child should wear a medical mask.
- Families will be contacted for immediate pick-up.
- Staff or student who is ill, will make arrangements to leave the child care setting immediately.
- The person who is symptomatic should be provided with tissues and reminded of hand hygiene, respiratory etiquette, and proper disposal of tissues.
- Staff assisting the symptomatic child should avoid contact with child's respiratory secretions.
- All items used that cannot be cleaned (paper, books, cardboard puzzles) should be removed and stored in sealed container for a minimum of 7 days.
- All surfaces and handles, items and activities that the child has used will be cleaned and disinfected in the room of the ill child.

### **NRPH: Niagara Specific Guidance for COVID-19 in Schools and Child Care Settings (February 22, 2021 Memo)**

Active Screening, especially for adults, (e.g. staff and essential visitors) is the best line of defence for preventing COVID-19 in the school or child care setting.

### **NEW SCREENING CRITERIA**

If a child has **one or more** of the following new or worsening symptoms:

- Fever
- Sore throat
- Cough
- Shortness of breath
- Headache
- Runny nose or stuffy/congestion
- Nausea, vomiting or diarrhea
- Decrease or loss of taste or smell
- Fatigue, extreme tiredness or muscle aches

They must **self-isolate at home** immediately and either:

- Contact their health care provider for a medical assessment

OR

- Contact the Niagara Health COVID-19 Assessment Centre to book an appointment for testing, this can be done on-line or by calling Niagara Health at 905-378-4647 ext. 42819

## **TESTING AND RETURN TO SCHOOL**

Children who need an assessment for testing based on their symptom(s) are not allowed to return to school/child care, or go to any public setting until one of the following has happened:

- A health care provider has told you that a test for COVID-19 is not needed.

OR

- The child had a test that was negative for COVID-19. They may go back to school/child care 24 hours after fever, shortness of breath, sore throat, and headache have all gone away without use of fever reducing medications AND any other symptoms are improving.

OR

- If your child is not assessed by a health care provider, and testing for COVID-19 was declined for any reason, we must assume the child has COVID-19 and the child is to self-isolate for 10 days (away from household members) AND all household contacts are to stay home and self-isolate for 14 days.

**Note:** Ten days after symptoms start, children can return to school/child care as long as they don't have a fever (without use of fever reducing medication) and they are feeling better.

OR

- A health care provider has told you that the symptom(s) are related to a chronic or pre-existing condition (e.g., allergies, post-nasal drip, migraines, asthma). In this case, your child can return to school/child care once they feel well enough, without waiting for symptoms to go away.

## **RE-TESTING**

Individuals who previously tested positive for COVID-19 generally can discontinue isolation after 10 days from symptom onset (or 10 days from positive test collection date if patient never had symptoms), provided that the individual has no fever (without the use of fever-reducing medications) and symptoms are improving for at least 24 hours. As individuals can test positive for weeks after infection, re-testing of prior cases is not recommended for return to school/childcare unless requested by Public Health.

## **SIBLINGS AND OTHER HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS LIVING WITH A SYMPTOMATIC CHILD**

- If a test is recommended by a health care provider for the symptomatic child, or a decision is made to get testing at an assessment centre, all household members are to self-isolate, until the test results are back. If the test is negative, household members can leave self-isolation. (Exception to this would be fully vaccinated household members)
- If testing for COVID-19 is declined for any reason, your child and your entire household must stay home and self-isolate. The child is to self-isolate for 10 days (away from household members, when possible) and all household contacts are to stay home and self-isolate for 14 days.

**Note:** If self-isolation away from household members is not possible, household members are to remain in self-isolation for 14 days from last exposure to the symptomatic child. If household members become symptomatic, they should consult their health care provider and/or go for testing.

- If the test is positive, household members must stay in self-isolation and will receive further direction from Public Health.
- If a health care provider advises that a test for COVID-19 is not needed, household members can leave self-isolation.

### **SIBLINGS OF AN ISOLATING COHORT**

- Siblings who are not contacts, but are household members of an isolating cohort, may continue to attend school as long as they, and all household members, remain symptom free.

If a staff member or other adult develops symptoms, **including any single new or worsening symptom**, they must always remain home and follow ONE of the following options:

- Contact their health care provider, walk-in clinic, or online virtual clinic for guidance (which can be provided over the phone).

OR

- Contact a Niagara Health COVID-19 Assessment Centre to book an appointment for testing. This can be done on-line or by calling Niagara Health at 905-378-4647 ext. 42819.

All household members are to self isolate until the test results are returned.

For more COVID-19 information go to [www.niagararegion.ca](http://www.niagararegion.ca) or you may contact the Public Health COVID-19 Info-Line at 905-688-8248, press 7.

### **Reporting and Serious Occurrence Reporting:**

- Serious Occurrence must be filed and reported to the MEDU for a child, staff or student that has a confirmed cases of COVID-19.
- A report must be made to the local public health unit and provide any materials (i.e., daily attendance records ) to public health officials to support case management and contact tracing and other activities in accordance with all applicable legislation, including the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act.
- Public health officials will determine any additional steps required, including but not limited to how to monitor for other possible infected staff and children and the declaration of an outbreak and closure of rooms and/or entire child care settings.
- If a closure is ordered by the local public health unit and the licensee has already submitted a serious occurrence for a confirmed case, the existing serious occurrence must be updated to reflect the closure.

Should additional individuals at the child care program develop a confirmed case, licensees must either:

- Revise the open serious occurrence report to include the additional cases; or,
- Submit a new serious occurrence report if the first has been closed already.
- While licensees are no longer required to report a serious occurrence for suspected cases; if the local public health unit determines that a full or partial closure is required (i.e., program room, home premises or entire child care centre must remain closed for a period of time), a serious occurrence report must be submitted under the “Unplanned Disruption of Service” category. Please also note there are requirements of employers to let workers know if they may have been exposed in the workplace. Please see the guide on developing a COVID-19 workplace safety plan for more information.

### **Ministry Requirements When Reporting Suspected or Confirmed Case of COVID-19 Serious Occurrence**

Child care licensees will only be required to report a serious occurrence for COVID-19 related matters for:

- **Confirmed COVID-19 cases;** or
- **Closures ordered by your local Public Health Unit** (i.e., where a closure is ordered for a centre, program room/s or provider’s home due to a confirmed or a suspected COVID-19 case(s)).
- To support these changes, the serious occurrence categories related to COVID-19 have been updated in the Child Care Licensing System (CCLS).

### **Confirmed COVID-19 cases**

For a Confirmed Case of COVID-19 with **no** Related Public Health Ordered Closure:

- Submit a serious occurrence in CCLS under “Confirmed COVID-19” category.

For a Confirmed Case of COVID-19 **with** a Public Health Ordered Closure

- Submit a serious occurrence in CCLS under ‘Confirmed COVID-19’ category, including information about the closure in the fields provided; or;
- Where there is a confirmed case and a closure is subsequently ordered by Public Health while the serious occurrence under “Confirmed COVID-19” category is still open, please revise the existing serious occurrence to include the closure information in the fields provided; or
- Where a closure is ordered by public health after the serious occurrence has been closed, submit a new serious occurrence for an “Unplanned Disruption of Service” with the subcategory of “Public Health Ordered Closure” (as per information below).

PLEASE NOTE: Where there is an open serious occurrence for a confirmed case of COVID-19, should a second individual develop a confirmed case, please do not submit a new/additional serious occurrence for the new confirmed case.

Instead, licensees must revise the existing/open serious occurrence report to add the information related to the new confirmed case.

### **Closures Ordered by your Local Public Health Unit**

- Where public health orders a closure with no confirmed COVID-19 case, submit a serious occurrence in CCLS under 'Unplanned Disruption of Service' with the subcategory of 'Public Health Ordered Closure'.
- Where there is an existing/open serious occurrence in CCLS under 'Unplanned Disruption of Service' with the subcategory of 'Public Health Ordered Closure' and an Individual develops a confirmed case of COVID-19, submit a new serious occurrence in CCLS under the 'Confirmed COVID-19' category.

A serious occurrence is **not** required for a **parent of a child** with a confirmed case of COVID-19.

Below is the current list of individuals with a confirmed case of COVID-19 for whom a serious occurrence report is required:

1. a **child who receives child care** at a home child care premises or child care centre.
2. a home child care **provider**.
3. a person who is **ordinarily a resident of a home child care premises** (e.g. the home provider's child, the home provider's spouse etc.; for complete definition please refer to the Home Child Care Licensing Manual).
4. a person who is **regularly at a home child care premises** (e.g. the home provider's friend who visits the premises once a week etc.; for complete definition please refer to the Home Child Care Licensing Manual),
5. a **home child care visitor**.
6. a **staff** member at a child care centre.
7. a **student** at a home child care premises or child care centre.

### **Serious Occurrence Notification Form**

- Follow the regular Serious Occurrence reporting requirements (including submitting a SO report in CCLS and posting the SO notification form). The following language will be used for the Serious Occurrence- as recommended by Niagara Region Public Health.
  - **Description:** A member of our child care community at (name of centre) has sought a health care assessment.
  - **Action Taken:** (name of centre) asks that you continue to follow Public Health recommendations of physical distancing and practice hand washing and the use of PPE.
  - **SO Update:** A member of our child care community (name of centre) has been cleared to return.
  - **Final SO Update:** The Ministry of Education has deemed this Serious Occurrence closed.
- The program must report this to the MEDU as a serious occurrence where a room or centre of premises closes due to a confirmed or suspected COVID-19 case, ordered by public health.

- The serious occurrence notification form must be posted as required under the CCEYA, unless the local public health unit advises otherwise.

### **Outbreak Management**

An outbreak may be declared by the local public health unit when: within a 14-day period, there are two or more laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 cases in children, staff/providers or other visitors with an epidemiological link (e.g. cases in the same room, cases that are part of the same before/after school care cohort) where at least one case could have reasonably acquired their infection in the child care setting.

- The local public health unit will work with the licensee to determine whether epidemiological links exist between cases and whether transmission may have occurred in the child care setting.
- If the local public health unit declares an outbreak, they will determine what happens next. This could include closing particular child care rooms or cohorts or an entire child care setting. The public health unit will help determine which groups of children and/or staff/providers need to be sent home or if a partial or full closure of the child care setting is required.
- If the public health unit determines that partial or full closure of the child care setting is required, the licensee must revise their existing serious occurrence report for a confirmed COVID-19 case to include information about the closure.

### **Confirmed cases or an outbreak of COVID-19 will be communicated to families that attend the CCC.**

- Families will be notified by email from the Manager/Supervisor once NRPH has confirmed that all individuals included in the contact tracing have been notified.
- NRPH “Outbreak” poster is posted at the front entrance when an outbreak has been declared by NRPH.
- A second email will be sent to families confirming the outbreak is over (as recommended/directed by NRPH).

### **Actions to Protect Your Health**

- Wash your hands often with soap and water or alcohol based hand sanitizer
- Sneezing and cough into your sleeve.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth.
- Avoid contact with people who are sick.
- Stay home if you are sick.
- Remind parents that they should be monitoring their children’s health and keeping children who are unwell at home.
- If travelling outside of Canada, stay home for 14 days and remind parents to do so as well, unless otherwise advised through the screen.
- When holding infants and toddlers (any child), use blankets or cloths over childcare providers clothing and change the blankets or cloths between children.
- Medical masks and eye protection will be provided for staff. (It is the responsibility of the staff to clean and disinfect their eye protection daily or when visibly soiled. **Under the Occupational Health**

**and Safety Act (OHSA) employers must take reasonable precaution to protect the health and safety of workers.**

**Fort Erie Co-operative Preschool Employee Incident Reporting Requirements for COVID-19 Work Related Exposures are as follows:**

Please choose scenario #1 or #2

- Medical masks and eye protection will be provided for staff. (It is the responsibility of the staff to clean and disinfect their eye protection daily or when visibly soiled. Under the Occupational Health and Safety Act (OHSA) employers must take reasonable precaution to protect the health and safety of workers.

1. If **you believe you were exposed to COVID-19 while at work** and you **are ill** at this time (you have a diagnosis or symptoms of COVID-19).

- **Complete an Employee Incident Report** and report the exposure to your Supervisor.
- Fort Erie Co-operative Preschool will initiate a WSIB claim on your behalf.

2. If **you believe you were exposed to COVID-19 while at work**, but you are **not ill** at this time (you **do not** have a diagnosis or symptoms of COVID-19 and may be **self-isolating** based on a directive from Public Health or a Physician).

- **Complete an Employee Incident Report** and report the exposure to your Supervisor.
- **Complete a [WSIB Worker Exposure Incident Reporting Form](#)\***.
  - Fax to WSIB 1-888-313-7373 and email a copy to Fort Erie Co-operative Preschool at [forteriepreschool@yahoo.ca](mailto:forteriepreschool@yahoo.ca).
- If you become ill in the future, Fort Erie Co-operative Preschool will initiate a WSIB claim on your behalf.

\*The Program for Exposure Incident Reporting (PEIR) is a voluntary WSIB reporting program and you will be assigned an incident number. If you become ill in the future, the WSIB will be able to process your claim faster.

[Vine COVID-19 Fact Sheet Work Related Exposure & WSIB Reporting Requirements](#)

**WSIB COVID-19 Links:**

[WSIB COVID update](#)

[FAQs about claims and COVID-19](#)

[Occupational disease and Workplace Health Hazards](#)

[Employer's Exposure Incident Reporting Form PIER](#)

**Additional Support Procedures**

- The child care centre Supervisor or designate and/or Children's Services Manager will check Niagara Regions Public Health [Novel Coronavirus update](#).

- Supervisor or designate and/or Children’s Service Manager will review the following links on the website to be informed of the most updated information and changes.

#### Risk & Symptoms

- [Screening for symptoms of Novel Coronavirus](#)

#### Prevent the Spread of COVID-19

- [Prevent the Spread of COVID-19](#)

#### Reopening Child Care Centres During COVID-19

- [Reopening Child Care Centres](#)

#### Frequently Asked Questions

- [FAQ](#)

#### Resources

- [COVID-19 Posters and Resources](#)
- [COVID-19 Guidance: Emergency Child Care Centres Version 2 May 8, 2020](#)

All staff will review our regular internal updates, provided to all employees via email, notifications regarding the Niagara Region COVID-19 Updates

#### [Operational Guidance for Child Care During COVID-19 Outbreak V. 6 -June 2021](#)

#### **Health Screen Checks**

- Screening can be completed prior to children/staff/visitors arriving at the child care centre.
- Verification for each individual will be required with a child care staff. Passing verbal verification for each individual will be required with a child care staff before the child enters the centre.
- Hard copy screens will be available at the child care centre in the event there are unforeseen technical issues.
- Retention of Health Screen Checks are no longer required to be retained in hard copy form on site, as advised by the Ministry of Education. This aligns with the Province of Ontario’s COVID-19 School and Child Care Screening Tool process.

#### **Community Programs (Sharing of the Directly Operated Child Care Centre Screens)**

- The following disclaimer must be used when providing external child care programs with the COVID-19 screening tool created by Niagara Region.
- The attached screening tool was prepared by The Regional Municipality of Niagara (“Niagara Region”) for use in connection with the operation of its emergency childcare centers in response to COVID-19 and is up-to-date as at October 8 and 9, 2020 as indicated on the screen. We are sharing this document as a matter of convenience with our community partners to the extent that it is helpful in assisting child care operators in developing their own screening procedures. Niagara

Region does not accept any responsibility, duty or liability whatsoever for the accuracy or completeness of this tool or the information contained therein. Similarly, Niagara Region makes no representation or warranty as to the fitness of the tool for any particular purpose and child care operators remain solely responsible for ensuring they fulfill the requirements for screening and other health protection practices as directed by the Province or any other governmental authority. While Niagara Region Children's Services may share updates to the screening tool with our child care partners from time to time, Niagara Region does not guarantee or accept any responsibility for updating the materials. Niagara Region expressly disclaims any responsibility for losses, damages, penalties or expenses that a child care operator or any other person who reviews, relies upon or makes use of these materials and the information contained herein may incur, including any direct or indirect damages, incidental, special, consequential or punitive damages, and lost profits, revenues or savings.

Prior to re-opening, an attestation form will be completed and submitted to the Ministry of Education and the manager of Children's Services.

*(Updated September 1, 2021)*