



Module 3

General Sanitary Precautions & Physical Distancing Measures

COVID-19 Enhanced Health and Safety Protocols

Licensed Home Child Care

Region of Peel

Public Health & Early Years and Child Care Services

Last updated: June 2020

All information contained in this presentation is explained in further detail in the **COVID-19 Enhanced Health and Safety Protocols for Licensed Home Child Care**.

Any links found in the notes portion of this presentation can be cut and pasted into your browser – clicking the link will not take you directly to the site.

What will be covered?

- Overview
- Policy
- Procedures
- Physical Distancing Measures
- At-Risk Family Members in the Home
- Disinfecting Solution Procedure



All information contained in this presentation and accompanying Protocol document and Forms, are in accordance with Peel Public Health and the Ministry of Education's Operational Guidance During COVID-10 Outbreak – Child Care Re-Opening found at <http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/childcare/child-care-re-opening-operational-guidance.pdf>

This Ministry's Guidance document has been designed for use in conjunction with the Licensing Manual, the CCEYA and its regulations.

In the event of a conflict between the Ministry's Guidance document and Licensing Manual, the Guidance document will prevail.

Advice of the local public health unit must be followed, even in the event that it contradicts the Guidance document.

Overview



- Agencies must have revised written policies and procedures outlining their health and safety protocols.
- Agencies must share with parents/guardians, the policies and procedures regarding health and safety protocols for COVID-19.
- Agencies may want to consider providing parents/guardians links to helpful information, as well as detailed instructions regarding screening and protocols if a child or Provider becomes ill.

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Additional information for child care setting is also available through the “[Keep on Track](#)’ manual, which includes the “[Preventing and Managing Illnesses in Child Care Centres](#)” guidelines.

<https://www.cdrcp.com/keep-on-track>

Pg. 9 of the Ministry’s Guidance Document lists that policies and procedures must include as part of the attestation submitted to the Ministry:

- direction set out by the local public health, and
- how the child care setting will operate during and throughout the recovery phase following the pandemic including: sanitization of the space, toys and equipment;
- how to report illness;
- how physical distancing will be encouraged;
- how shifts will be scheduled, where applicable;
- rescheduling of group events and/or in-person meetings; and,
- parent drop off and pick up procedures.

The Parent/Guardian Agreement and Parent Letter have been developed as documents that can be used to support information sharing with parents.

Policy



- All home child care Providers must maintain routine infection prevention and control practices and adhere to **additional** sanitary precautions and physical distancing measures in all aspects of care to prevent the spread of COVID-19.
- Providers with seniors 70 years of age or older and immunocompromised individuals living in the home should take extreme caution during a time of heightened risk of exposure to COVID-19

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From Region's Protocol document.

Procedures

The procedures **COVID-19 Enhanced Health and Safety Protocols for Licensed Home Child Care and the Ministry's Guidance document** describe the following practices:



- Hand Washing
- Masks, Gloves and Eye Protection
- Cleaning and Disinfecting
- Toys and Equipment
- Equipment Used for Nap/Sleep Time
- Meal Times
- Interactions with Infants/Toddlers
- Additional Practices (including pets)

Printable posters to support these practices are available through [Peel Public Health](#)

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The Ministry Guidance document describes many of the procedures as having children placed in to **COHORTS**. Cohort is defined as a group of children and the staff members assigned to them, who stay together throughout the duration of the program for a minimum of 7 days.

For home child care – the cohort is the Provider and children who are in their care.

Hand Washing



- Perform and promote frequent, proper hand hygiene
- Hand washing by children should be supervised or assisted by the Provider
- Hand washing using soap and water is recommended over alcohol-based hand sanitizer for children
- Providers must ensure that hand washing supplies are well stocked at sinks and in washrooms
- Hand sanitizer (containing at least 60% alcohol) must be supplied when hand washing is not possible
 - Hand sanitizer should only be used on children over the age of two and under Provider supervision
 - Provider must ensure that the product has completely evaporated from the child's hands

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- The Region's Protocol document outlines specific situation where Provider's and children MUST wash their hands.
- Provider's should follow and model the proper hand washing steps. A poster is available through Peel Public Health to support the proper hand washing and hand sanitizing procedures.
- Ensure hand sanitizer or alcohol-based hand rub (containing at least 60% alcohol) is available at the designated entrance for the home and throughout the home
- Hand sanitizer must be kept out of reach of young children to prevent accidental poisoning.

Types of Masks

Medical Masks

- N95 Respirator
 - wearer must be fit tested
 - used in healthcare setting
 - not required in child care
- Surgical/Procedure masks
 - often blue coloured masks
 - commonly seen in doctor and dentist clinics



Surgical mask



N95 respirator mask

Non-medical Masks

- Cloth Mask
 - Homemade masks

“My mask protects you, your mask protects me”

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Before we discuss the requirements for wearing personal protective equipment, we will explain the different types of masks.

The two different types of medical masks you have heard or seen of are N95 respirators and surgical/procedure masks.

N95 masks are not required to be worn in a childcare setting and are needed by health care workers in a health care setting where they are dealing with patients and have a higher risk of being exposed to COVID-19.

Surgical/procedure masks and cloth masks are recommended to be worn in the child care setting.

Additional information sheets are found offered by Public Health Ontario:

COVID-19: Non-medical Masks and Face Coverings:

<https://www.publichealthontario.ca/-/media/documents/ncov/factsheet/2020/05/factsheet-covid-19-non-medical-masks.pdf?la=en>

Mask Use for Non-Healthcare Workers: <https://www.publichealthontario.ca/-/media/documents/ncov/factsheet/2020/05/factsheet-covid-19-masks-not-healthcare.pdf?la=en>

Image only taken from: <https://theconversation.com/should-we-wear-masks-or-not-an-expert-sorts-through-the-confusion-135135>. Article should not be used as a source of information.

Masks, Gloves and Eye Protection



- Wearing masks or gloves at all times is not recommended
- Masks are not recommended for children, particularly those under the age of two
- Providers may opt to wear masks (surgical/procedure or cloth masks) in situations where physical distancing (of 2-metres or greater) is difficult to maintain
- Masks should be worn under the following circumstances:
 - Providers (or members of their household) who become sick
 - Children who become sick, until their parent/guardian arrives

“My mask protects you, your mask protects me”

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Providers should wear masks (surgical/procedure or cloth masks) in situations where physical distancing (of 2-metres or greater) is difficult to maintain

Masks (surgical/procedure or cloth masks) should also be worn under the following circumstances:

- Providers (or members of their household) who become sick
- Children who become sick, until their parent/guardian arrives

From Guidance Document:

Child care licensees and home child care providers should secure and sustain an amount of PPE and cleaning supplies that can support their current and ongoing operations.

Early Years and Child Care services is currently working with our procurement division to help agencies and providers access PPE

Additional information sheets are found offered by Public Health Ontario
COVID-19: Non-medical Masks and Face Coverings:

<https://www.publichealthontario.ca/-/media/documents/ncov/factsheet/2020/05/factsheet-covid-19-non-medical-masks.pdf?la=en>

Mask Use for Non-Healthcare Workers: <https://www.publichealthontario.ca/-/media/documents/ncov/factsheet/2020/05/factsheet-covid-19-masks-not->

[healthcare.pdf?la=en](#)

Masks, Gloves and Eye Protection

- Surgical/procedure masks and eye protection should be worn in the following circumstances:
 - Screening procedures conducted at the Provider's home
 - Cleaning and disinfecting bodily fluids or blood if risk of splashing (gloves should also be worn)
 - When caring for a sick child (gloves should also be worn)
- The Peel Public Health poster demonstrates proper procedure for mask wearing – including hand hygiene before and after



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Eye protection includes: a face shield, wrap around safety glasses or goggles

Hand hygiene must be performed before putting on and after taking off a mask, eye protection or gloves.

Cleaning and Disinfecting



- Frequently touched surfaces should be cleaned and disinfected at **least twice a day** as they are most likely to become contaminated
- It is recommended that **Agencies and Providers** set a schedule and develop a cleaning and disinfecting log to track and demonstrate cleaning
- Only use disinfecting solutions made with household bleach or disinfectants with a Drug Identification Number (DIN). Low-level hospital grade disinfectants may be used. Check expiry dates.
- Always follow the manufacturer's instructions.

Clean frequently touched surfaces at least twice per day



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Follow local public health advice regarding best practices for cleaning and disinfecting, including:

- which products to use;
- how to clean and disinfect blankets, sleeping mats and toys;
- how to clean equipment; and,
- other items to remember, including checking expiry dates of cleaning and disinfectant products and following the manufacturer's instructions.

Additional Fact Sheets:

Cleaning and Disinfection for Public Settings - COVID-19 :

<https://www.publichealthontario.ca/-/media/documents/ncov/factsheet-covid-19-environmental-cleaning.pdf?la=en>

Health Canada has developed the following list of hard surface disinfectants for use against COVID-19: <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/drugs-health-products/disinfectants/covid-19/list.html>

Vinegar is not a disinfectant and should not be used for disinfecting in the home. Vinegar does not kill germs!

Toys and Equipment



- Providers are encouraged to provide toys and equipment which are made of materials that can be cleaned and disinfected (e.g., avoid plush toys)
- Mouthed toys should be cleaned and disinfected immediately after the child is finished using it
- Where toys and equipment are shared, they should be cleaned and disinfected prior to being shared
- If sensory materials (e.g., playdough, water, sand, etc.) are offered, they should be provided for single use (i.e. available to the child for the day) and on an individual basis
- Do not use community playgrounds. Follow provincial and municipal guidance or laws with respect to any community excursions

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- Providers must ensure that all toys and equipment are in good repair, clean and sanitary. Providers must advise the Agency of any concerns regarding toys and equipment.
- Other items such as books, puzzles and cardboard that are absorbent and cannot be easily cleaned and disinfected should be removed.
- Tables and chairs being used are to be cleaned and disinfected daily and as often as needed, including after all meals.
- If a child displays any symptoms of COVID-19, all toys and equipment accessed by the child must be cleaned and disinfected as soon as possible.

Equipment Used for Nap/Sleep Time



- Children must have individual rest equipment; sharing is not allowed
- Providers are encouraged to increase the distance between cots/resting mats/playpens or place the children head to toe or toe to toe if the space is limited
- This equipment must be cleaned and disinfected between each use. Equipment must be cleaned and disinfected daily or more frequently as needed
- Sheets and blankets must be cleaned weekly or more frequently as needed and be individually labelled

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- This equipment can be a cot, crib, mat or any other approved equipment for resting purposes.
- Ensure equipment sheets and blankets belonging to different children are labelled with the child's name and stored separately in bags or bins in clean dry areas to prevent mold growth and kept out of the way of everyday activities.
- Families will be permitted to bring their own blankets for children. Ensure that parents/guardians who supply their own blankets for children launder all items prior to bringing them to the home and store them separately in a clean bag.

Meal Times



- Providers should adapt meal practices to ensure there is no self-serve sharing or sharing of food at meal times
 - Utensils should be used to serve food
 - Meals should be served in individual portions to children but still allow for choice as to what they would like on their plate
- Children must not share food, feeding utensils, soothers, bottles, sippy cups, etc.
- There should be no food provided by the family (except where required)
- Children should neither prepare nor provide food that will be shared with others
- Ensure proper hand hygiene is practiced when Providers prepare food and for all individuals before and after eating
- Where possible, children should practice physical distancing while eating

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There should be no food provided by the family/outside of the regular meal provision of the program (except where required and special precautions for handling and serving the food must be put in place)

Interactions with Infants/Toddlers



- Providers must supervise and hold bottles for infants not yet able to hold their own bottle to reduce the risk of choking
- When holding infants and toddlers Providers may use blankets or cloths over clothing and change the blankets or cloths between children
- If using cribs/playpens, these should be placed using physical distancing

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There are specific recommendations in the Guidance document related to Infants and Toddlers.

Recognizing that physical distancing is difficult with small children and infants, suggestions to support physical distancing include:

- planning activities that do not involve shared objects or toys
- when possible, moving activities outside to allow for more space

Additional Practices



- **Pets:** There is currently no evidence that pets or other domestic animals play a significant role in the spread of COVID-19
- Low-touch surfaces must be cleaned and disinfected daily (i.e. window ledges, doors, sides of furnishings etc.)
- Carpets are to be vacuumed daily when time permits
- Toothbrushes, bottles and pacifiers must be individually labelled and stored separately
- For creams and lotions during diapering, the Provider must never put hands directly into lotion or cream bottles
- Avoid getting close to faces of all children, where possible.

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How to Care for Pets and Other Animals - COVID-19:

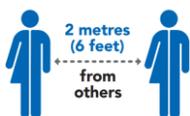
<https://www.publichealthontario.ca/-/media/documents/ncov/factsheet/factsheet-covid-19-domestic-animals.pdf?la=en>

- There have been limited reports of animals becoming infected with COVID-19.
- There is currently no evidence that pets or other domestic animals play a significant role in the spread of COVID-19.
- If you are sick, it is recommended that you avoid contact with pets and other animals, just like you would other people, until more is known.

The full list of additional practices is available in the Region's Protocol.

Physical Distancing Measures

- Physical distancing of at least 2-meters, should be encouraged, when possible, between children



- **Examples of how this could be done include:**
 - Spreading children out in to different areas, particularly at meal, nap and dressing times
 - Incorporating more individual activities
 - Using visual cues (objects in the home) to promote physical distancing
 - When possible, moving activities outside
 - Staggering arrival and departure times

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The ministry recognizes that physical distancing between children in a child care setting is difficult and encourages child care providers to maintain a welcoming and caring environment for children.

Additional physical distancing may be difficult to maintain in a home setting; however, steps should be taken to limit the number of people in close contact (i.e. within minimum 2-metres of each other).

At-Risk Family Members in the Home



- Seniors 70 years of age or older, individuals with a weakened immune system and/or those with chronic disease have a higher risk of developing severe complications from COVID-19
- Providers are strongly encouraged to take extreme caution for these family members during a time of heightened risk of exposure to COVID-19
- At-risk individuals should talk to a health care professional on precautions to prevent COVID-19 infection
- Physical distancing measures are strongly recommended for any at-risk individuals in the home.

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- **Physical distancing measures are strongly recommended for any at-risk individuals in the home:**
 - Maintain a distance of at least 2-meters from other people and wear a mask that covers the nose and mouth when in the same room as other people.
 - Stay in a separate room away from other people in the home as much as possible and use a separate bathroom if possible
 - Ensure that common areas have good airflow (e.g. open windows)
 - Have separate mealtimes or eat in a separate room to limit their contact with other people.
 - Talk to the children about practicing physical distancing from at-risk individuals

Disinfection Solution Procedure

Making Disinfecting Solutions using Household Bleach (5.25%)

	Child Care Surfaces and Items 500 PPM*	Blood and Body Fluid Foulings 5000 PPM*
Definition	Intermediate level disinfectant used for toys, diapering stations, water play stations, pet cages, and high touch surfaces	High level disinfectant used for items and surfaces that become contaminated with blood, body fluids, feces, and vomit foulings
How to Make	10 ml (2 tsp) of bleach with 1 litre (4 cups) of water	125 ml (½ cup) of bleach with 1 litre (4 cups) of water
Contact Time	2 minutes	2 minutes
Drying Details	Rinse and air dry	Rinse and air dry

This poster is also found in the Protocol document

* Concentration is approximate due to simplification of mixing recipe

Additional Notes:

- Clean all surfaces and items with soap and water before disinfecting.
- Make a new bleach solution daily.
- Prepare bleach solution with room temperature water to reduce odour.
- Label all disinfectant and cleaning product bottles.
- Use the stream setting on spray bottles to reduce inhalation hazards.
- Do not mix bleach solutions with any other cleaning products.
- Store all disinfectants and cleaning products in a location inaccessible to children.
- Avoid using disinfectants and cleaning products within close proximity to children.

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The Ministry's guidance document may also be used for additional information:

Cleaning and Disinfection for Public Settings - COVID-19:

<https://www.publichealthontario.ca/-/media/documents/ncov/factsheet-covid-19-environmental-cleaning.pdf?la=en>

Useful Signage

novel coronavirus (COVID-19)

Stop infection Wear a mask

Peel Public Health recommends wearing a non-medical mask when it's hard to maintain physical distance from others.

For more information visit peelregion.ca/coronavirus

Region of Peel
working with you

Attention!

Active COVID-19 screening in effect

- Only children and essential guests who have cleared COVID-19 screening can enter the home.
- Parents/guardians please do not enter the home unless absolutely necessary. The Provider will greet you outside and escort your child(ren) into the home.

Please wash your hands or apply hand sanitizer upon entering.

Get updates on COVID-19: peelregion.ca

Region of Peel
working with you

To reduce the risk of spreading COVID-19

please use the hand sanitizer provided on the table next to this sign before going any further.

Get updates on COVID-19: peelregion.ca

novel coronavirus (COVID-19)

Stop infection Wash your hands

For more information visit peelregion.ca/coronavirus

novel coronavirus (COVID-19)

Stop infection Clean your hands

Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer

For more information visit peelregion.ca/coronavirus

These posters are either supplied in a link in this presentation or part of document package you received by email.

Additional Resources



Child Development Resource Connection Peel (CDRCP)

- [E-Learning Opportunities](#)



Public Health Ontario

- [Tip Sheets](#)



Region of Peel

- [Masks and Face Coverings](#)
- [Resource Posters](#)
- [Translated Resources](#)

Questions?



Contact info:

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