



YMCA of Niagara
#3-300 Bunting Road
St. Catharines, ON
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(905)646-9622
ymcaofniagara.org

Child Care Illness & Exposure to COVID-19 Protocol

YMCA Child Care

Intent: This protocol must be followed by YMCA Child Care employees in the event that a child, student or employee at the centre is exposed to COVID-19, or is symptomatic.

YMCA Child Care will follow Niagara Region Public Health's Medical Officer of Health's direction if a child, student or employee tests positive for COVID-19.

Summary: If a child, student or employee exhibits a COVID-19 or influenza-like symptom, they should be sent home immediately to avoid spreading the illness. A child, student or employee should not return to the centre (to work) until they have been cleared to return by an appropriate medical professional or as directed by Public Health. Documentation may be required.

If a child becomes ill during child care, the child will be separated from the other children. Families will be contacted for immediate pick up from the child care centre. All surfaces and high touch areas will be cleaned and disinfected in the room of the ill child. The children's illness will be recorded in the daily log book. Wherever possible toys will be removed, cleaned and disinfected.

The YMCA will follow Niagara Region Public Health's guidance around self-isolation of child care children and families, as well as return to child care criteria. If there is a positive COVID-19 test result, the YMCA will follow the direction of Public Health.

Serious Occurrence:

- Child care centres have a duty to report confirmed cases of COVID-19 in accordance with the Ministry of Education's *Operational Guidance During COVID-19 Outbreak*. See below for when to call Niagara Region Public Health.
- Where a child, student or staff has a confirmed case of COVID-19 (ie: a positive COVID-19 test result), the YMCA must report this to the Ministry as a Serious Occurrence (SO) through CCLS.
- Should additional individuals at the centre develop a confirmed case, the open SO must be updated, or if closed, a new SO is to be reported.



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- Where a room, centre or premises is ordered to close by Niagara Public Health, the YMCA must include this information in the SO report and/or update the existing SO report when the closure occurs.
- If local public health determines that a full or partial closure is required, a SO report must be submitted under the “unplanned disruption of service” category.
- The YMCA will post the Serious Occurrence Notification form as required under the CCEYA.

When Child Care is to Contact Public Health (NRPH): *(Niagara Region Memo August 28, 2020)*

(Child Care COVID line: 905-688-8248 or 1-888-505-6074, press 7)

As of Feb, 5, 2021, reporting of cases is online; go to <https://www.niagararegion.ca/health/covid-19/reopen/child-care.aspx>

- Contact NRPH to report a recent Positive COVID-19 lab result.
- Contact NRPH to report **Suspected** cases proactively (before test results are back) if staff or children are symptomatic AND they have had exposure. An exposure is:
 - Symptoms and **travel outside of Canada in the last 14 days**
 - Symptoms and **exposure to a known case in the last 14 days**

Do not report staff or children who are symptomatic and going for testing without any known exposure.

- Contact NRPH when you suspect an outbreak. As per the child care manual: A respiratory outbreak may be in effect when there are two or more related children or staff, such as same room or same age group, with similar signs and symptoms that:
 - Occur within 48 hours in the centre, or
 - When the number of ill staff/children exceeds what is normal in the child care centre within a short period of time

Preventative Protocol:

Actions to Protect Your Health:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water or alcohol based hand sanitizer
- Sneeze and cough into your sleeve or into a tissue. Immediately dispose of the tissue and wash your hands.
- 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.



Screening

- Prior to commencing their shift, employees and students will answer all questions on the on-line **COVID-19 Screening** and present result to screening staff.
- Paper copies of the screens for children and employees/students will be available at screening stations, in case on-line screening was not completed.
- All children, employees and students will be screened daily at the designated screening location by a staff.
 - Signage describing screening practices will be posted by the child care entrance/buzzer.
 - All employees, students, children and families must use hand sanitizer upon entry to the screening area at the child care centre. Children under the age of 2 years will be required to wash their hands immediately at first available sink after screening.
 - Hand sanitizer dispensers should not be in locations that can be accessed by young children.
 - Completion of the COVID-19 Screening will take place on-line prior to arrival and be confirmed at the entrance, or completed in person on paper at the screening area.
 - COVID-19 symptoms include, but are not limited to:
 - Fever
 - Cough
 - Difficulty breathing
 - Decrease or loss of smell or taste
 - Sore throat
 - Runny nose
 - Headache
 - Nausea, vomiting or diarrhea
 - Fatigue, lethargy, or muscle aches
- Essential visitors will complete the COVID-19 Screening either online or on paper at the screening area, prior to entering the centre.
- If an employee, student, child or essential visitor answers yes to any one of the questions resulting in a 'failed screen', **entry into the child care facility will not be permitted**. They must self-isolate at home immediately and are advised to either contact their health care provider or contact a Niagara Health COVID-19 Assessment Centre to book an appointment for testing, either on-line or by calling Niagara Health at 905-378-4647, ext 42819.
- A child with only a runny nose and no other symptoms must self-isolate at home, but can wait 24 hours to see if there is improvement before doing anything further.
 - If the runny nose improves after 24 hours, the child may return to child care when they feel well enough without an assessment or test. Household members do not need to self-isolate while waiting 24 hours for the runny nose to improve.
 - If a runny nose doesn't improve or get worse after 24 hours, parents are encouraged to contact a health professional.
 - If a runny nose worsens, and/or additional symptoms arise, parents should contact a health professional.



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- **Note:** Asymptomatic individuals who went for testing, have no exposure, are awaiting results, and have not been told by NRPH to isolate, do not need to be excluded from the child care centre. This includes the parents or guardians of child care children.
- Only one family at a time may be screened.
- Additional families awaiting screening must wait outside of the building.
 - Those waiting will be reminded to maintain physical distancing from others while they wait.
 - Markers/pylons every 6 feet will be set up to indicate appropriate distancing.
- The buzzer system and front door handles (if being used) 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 staff.

Siblings and Other Household Members of a Symptomatic Individual (per NRPH Feb 5, 2021)

- If a test is recommended by a health care provider for the symptomatic person, or a decision is made to pursue testing at an assessment centre, all household members are to self-isolate at least until the test results are back. If the test is negative, household members can leave self-isolation.
- If the test is positive, household members must stay in self-isolation and will receive further direction from Public Health.
- Obtaining an assessment (even over the phone) from a health care provider may take some time. Household members with no symptoms do not need to self-isolate immediately after a child develops symptoms. They can wait up to 24 hours until a decision is made about whether testing is needed. However, if it takes longer than 24 hours to obtain an assessment, all household members must self-isolate until a decision is made.
- If a health care provider then advises that a test for COVID-19 is not needed, household members can leave self-isolation.
- When there is a symptomatic child in a household, it is important that special attention is given to all adults in the household. If any adults have even one symptom of COVID-19, or recently had one or more symptoms and were not tested, they should self-refer for testing as soon as possible or contact the Public Health Info-Line if there are remaining questions.

Management of Children with Possible Illness (COVID-19):

If a child begins to experience symptoms of illness (COVID-19) while attending child care, it is recommended that:

- If the child needs immediate medical attention, call 911.



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- The child's parent/caregiver or emergency contact will be notified and requested to pick up the child as soon as possible.
- Symptomatic children are immediately separated from others in a designated isolation area where they will be supervised until they can go home.
 - In addition, where possible, the employee designated to provide care to the child should maintain a distance of 2 metres.
 - The child should wear a medical mask (if tolerated and above the age of two). The child care employee must wear a medical mask and eye protection at all times and not interact with others; gloves and gowns may also be worn by the employee.
- Hygiene and respiratory etiquette should be practiced while the child is waiting to be picked up.
- Tissues should be provided to the child to support appropriate respiratory etiquette, with proper disposal of the tissues and hand hygiene.
- Environmental cleaning and disinfection of the designated isolation area where the child was supervised will be conducted once the child has been picked up. All items used by the sick person that cannot be cleaned (paper, books, cardboard puzzles) will be removed and stored in a sealed container for a minimum of 7 days.
- The Supervisor will create a list of other children and employees in the centre who came into contact with the symptomatic child so that they can be identified as a close contact, cohorted (i.e. grouped together) and monitored for symptoms until laboratory tests, if any, have been completed or until directed by Public Health.

Returning to Child Care:

Following a 'failed screen' or development of symptoms during the program, the child is referred to either their own health care provider or to Public Health.

Children who require an assessment for testing based on their symptom(s) are not permitted to return to school, child care, or go to any public setting until ONE of the following criteria is met: (per NRPH Feb 5, 2021)

- The child had a test that was negative for COVID-19. They may return to school/child care 24 hours after fever, shortness of breath, sore throat, and headache have all resolved without use of fever reducing medications (e.g., Ibuprofen/Advil, Acetaminophen/Tylenol) AND any other symptoms are improving.
- Parents are advised by a health care provider that the symptom(s) are related to a chronic or pre-existing condition (e.g., allergies, post-nasal drip, migraines, asthma). In this case, they can return to the school/child care once they feel well enough, without waiting for symptoms to resolve.



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- The child completed 10 days of self-isolation. After 10 days, the child can return to school as long as they do not have a fever, without use of fever reducing medications and they are feeling better. This includes individuals who have chosen not to be tested.

Please note: Children returning with a negative COVID-19 result or health care provider clearance from a previous day or after completion of isolation does not exempt them from completing the entire screening tool successfully on the day of return to the child care centre and daily thereafter.

Management of a YMCA Staff (or student placement) with Possible Illness (COVID-19):

- If the staff or student needs immediate medical attention, call 911.
- Staff or students who become ill while at the child care centre should be sent home immediately and directed to contact their health care professional or visit <https://www.niagararegion.ca/health/covid-19/testing.aspx> for direction on next steps.
- The child care Supervisor will inform the Child Care Regional Director (RD) and General Manager to ensure a replacement staff is available to work in the centre.
- The Supervisor will create a list of children and other employees in the centre who came into contact with the symptomatic staff or student so that they can be identified as a close contact, cohorted (i.e. grouped together) and monitored for symptoms until testing is confirmed or until directed by Public Health.
- The Supervisor/RD will contact YMCA Human Resources to ensure appropriate next steps are initiated. (ie: if needed - EAP, ROE etc.)
- A staff or student with a confirmed case of COVID-19 must be excluded from work at the child care centre for the full isolation period as directed by Niagara Public Health.

Employees - Returning to Work in Child Care:

(Section below also applies to student placements)

Following a 'failed screen' or development of symptoms during the program, the staff is referred to either their own health care provider or the Public Health COVID hotline for assessment and suitability for testing. If the staff is not recommended for COVID testing then the staff **MUST** get clearance from their own health care provider if they want to return to work at the centre or be excluded for the period of isolation as directed by Niagara Public Health.

A staff member may return to the centre when one of the following criteria has been met

- A health care provider is consulted and provides clearance for the staff to return to the centre. Documentation from the health care provider is not required.
- The staff is tested and a negative COVID-19 test result is obtained. Exclusion continues until 24 hours after symptoms have resolved. Documentation of the negative test will be required.
- The staff receives Positive COVID-19 results and has completed the self isolation period as directed by Public Health.



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- The staff has remained out of the child care centre for the period of isolation as directed by Niagara Public Health and is asymptomatic. This includes:
 - a. Staff who are symptomatic and who are recommended for testing but testing is declined, OR
 - b. Staff who have refused to see a health care provider

Please note: Staff returning with a negative COVID result or health care provider clearance from a previous day or after the directed period of isolation does not exempt them from completing the entire screening tool successfully on the day of return to the child care centre and daily thereafter.

Additional Supports:

- The child care centre Supervisor or Designate and/or Child Care Regional Director and General Manager will utilize the Niagara Region's Public Health [Novel Coronavirus Update](#) website as needed: <https://www.niagararegion.ca/health/covid-19/default.aspx?topic=1>
- Additional resources:
 - Risk & Symptoms
<https://www.niagararegion.ca/health/covid-19/symptoms.aspx>
 - Social Distancing
<https://www.niagararegion.ca/health/covid-19/social-distancing.aspx>
 - How to Protect Yourself
<https://www.niagararegion.ca/health/covid-19/prevention.aspx>
 - Cleaning and Disinfecting
<https://www.niagararegion.ca/health/covid-19/cleaning.aspx>
 - Frequently Asked Questions
<https://www.niagararegion.ca/health/covid-19/faq.aspx>
 - Resources
<https://www.niagararegion.ca/health/covid-19/resources.aspx>
http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/publichealth/coronavirus/docs/2019_child_care_guidance.pdf
- Supervisors or Designate and/or Child Care Regional Director and General Manager will stay informed of internal YMCA updates related to the evolving Pandemic as well as important information such as new protocols or procedures.

Additional Employee Supports:

- For information about YMCA Health and Wellness Benefits for eligible employees, please visit the Staff Intranet
<https://secure.actioncorporation.com/dashboard/viewfoldershome.cgi?rx8355py3mz&rhm78f44bmq&rq38qnhq4n3>
- Human Resources contact information



- Julie Cruickshank, Senior GM of HR (905)321-4026
- Shannon Braun, HR Generalist (905)658-6530
- Marija Faife, HR Generalist (905)246-7478

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