

PROGRAM POLICIES	COVID-19 Outbreaks	SUBJECT	COVID-19
DOCUMENTATION		REVISED DATE:	December 2020
		PAGE	1 of 2

Policy

A COVID-19 outbreak may be declared by public health when, within a 14-day period, there are two or more confirmed COVID-19 cases in children, staff or visitors with an epidemiological link (e.g., cases in the same room, cases that are part of the same before and after school care cohort), where at least one case could have reasonably been acquired within the centre.

Public health will help to determine whether epidemiological links exist between cases and whether transmission may have occurred in the child care setting.

Procedures

If an outbreak is declared, public health will devise a plan to manage the outbreak. This includes:

- Determining whether to close particular child care rooms, cohorts or full closure of the centre.
- Determining if children and/or staff need to be sent home.
- Determining who to contact and inform of the outbreak. If the centre is in a shared space at a school, the supervisor must contact the principal or vice principal to advise of the outbreak.

As per the Serious Occurrences policy, a report must be filed to the Ministry of Education for any confirmed COVID-19 cases of a child, staff or student.

Parents must be notified by means of a letter and an appropriate information sheet that is posted on the entrance door unless otherwise notified by Public Health. Notification and information may be handed out to parents upon request.

Disclaimer: This document is a sample template that has been prepared to assist operators in understanding the minimum requirement for Health and Safety policies and practices related to offering child care services in the Region of Durham. The information in this sample template has been reviewed by the Health Department, as the Medical Officer of Health. It is the responsibility of the operator to ensure that the information included in this document is appropriately modified to reflect the individual circumstances and needs of each child care centre it operates.

Please be advised that this document does not constitute legal advice and should not be relied on as such. The information provided in this document does not impact the Ministry's authority to enforce the CCEYA and its regulations or the Local Medical Officer of Health's authority to enforce Health related regulations. Health Department staff will continue to enforce legislation, regulations and Health department requirements based on the facts as they may find them at the time of any inspection or investigation. It is the responsibility of the operator to ensure compliance with all applicable legislation and guidance documents. If the operator requires assistance with respect to the interpretation of the legislation, guidance documents and their application, the operator may wish to consult legal counsel.

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		PAGE	2 of 2

Infection Control

Staff must refer to Outbreak Control in the Health Department Wee Care manual.

- Increase washing/sanitizing and surface cleaning/disinfection throughout, regardless of scheduled cleaning.
- Anyone experiencing symptoms of illness should be excluded from the centre. This includes staff, parents, children, volunteers and students.

Surveillance and Monitoring

Information should be recorded on the Routine Illness Surveillance Form; a copy is in the Wee Care Manual along with other relevant documents.

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