



Durham Region Health Department **Facts about...**



COVID-19 Outbreak in a Childcare Centre

What is a COVID-19 Outbreak in a Childcare Centre?

A COVID-19 outbreak in a childcare centre may be declared by Durham Region Health Department (DRHD) based on identification of a case or cases associated with a childcare centre including in children, staff, visitors or volunteers.

How is a COVID-19 outbreak managed in a childcare centre?

Your childcare centre is working closely with DRHD to ensure all necessary health and safety measures are in place to protect the childcare community. Depending on the assessment conducted by DRHD, there may be childcare centre closures ranging from a single room up to a full centre closure.

Additional measures during an outbreak may include:

- Outbreak signage at entrances and affected area.
- Informing outside agencies that use the childcare centre of the outbreak.
- Only allowing essential visitors into the childcare centre.
- Further minimizing the movement of staff between rooms.
- Limiting children's activities to their assigned rooms.
- Restricting all staff from working in other childcare centres.

How will I know if my child can attend the childcare centre during a COVID-19 Outbreak?

Your childcare centre will notify you if your child's room or the centre will be closed. Anyone identified as a close contact of the positive case of COVID-19 will be advised to leave the childcare centre and to self-isolate at home. DRHD will follow-up with all identified contacts for further assessment and provide recommendations for testing.

How do I know when the COVID-19 Outbreak is over?

DRHD will work closely with your childcare centre to manage the outbreak. The outbreak will be resolved when:

- It has been at least 14 days from the last outbreak associated positive case; **and**
- No further symptomatic individuals have pending COVID-19 test results.

905-668-2020 or 1-800-841-2729 | durham.ca/health

If you require this information in an accessible format, contact 1-800-841-2729.



How can I prevent COVID-19

- Physically distance from others by keeping 2 metres away as much as possible.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Clean your hands often with soap and water or use hand sanitizer.
- After handling nose and throat secretions, (e.g. throwing out used facial tissues) wash your hands.
- Cough and sneeze into a tissue or your sleeve.
- Avoid touching your face.
- Do not share water bottles, eating utensils, toothbrushes, toys or anything else that has been in contact with saliva, nose or throat secretions.
- Clean and disinfect surfaces that are high-touch areas.
- Avoid close contact with anyone showing symptoms of respiratory illness such as coughing and sneezing.
- Screen children daily before entry to childcare centre.

As a reminder, please monitor your child/children for symptoms of illness and do not send your child/children to a childcare centre if they are ill.

Common COVID-19 symptoms include fever (temperature of 37.8 degrees Celsius or greater), new or worsening cough and shortness of breath. Other symptoms of COVID-19 can include sore throat, difficulty swallowing, changes to sense of taste and/or smell, nausea/vomiting, diarrhea, abdominal pain and runny nose, or nasal congestion (not caused by seasonal allergies).

Atypical symptoms of COVID-19 should be considered, particularly in children, older persons, and people living with a developmental disability. Atypical symptoms can include unexplained fatigue, body aches, delirium, unexplained or increased number of falls, acute functional decline, exacerbation of chronic conditions, chills, headaches, croup, conjunctivitis, and multisystem inflammatory vasculitis in children.

Symptoms of multisystem inflammatory vasculitis in children may include persistent fever, abdominal pain, conjunctivitis, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea and rash.

If you have questions or you suspect your child/children have COVID-19 please call Durham Health Connection Line at 905-668-2020 or 1-800-841-2729.

For more information about COVID-19 please visit www.durham.ca/novelcoronavirus

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