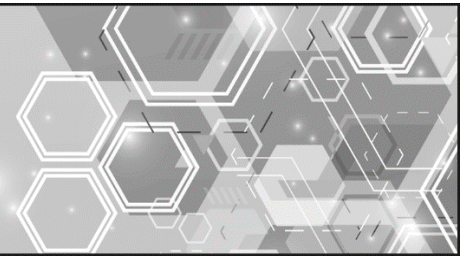




Durham Region Health Department Facts about...



Infection Control Guidance for Community Partners offering warming/cooling centres

Overview

This information is intended to help centre providers reduce the risk of exposure to illnesses. This document provides recommendations for staff/volunteers, visitors, and clients who rely on these settings for their well-being.

Extreme heat and cold are major public health concerns. Exposure to extreme heat/cold can result in the development of weather-related injuries such as hypothermia, frostbite, or heat stroke. Extreme temperatures can make existing health conditions worse, such as cardiovascular and respiratory disease, and can even lead to death. For more information visit durham.ca/ExtremeCold and durham.ca/ExtremeHeat.

Warming and cooling centres are used by many communities to protect the health of our most vulnerable residents during extreme weather events.

These recommendations are intended to help warming/cooling centres reduce the risk of exposure to illnesses with general infection prevention and control recommendations for staff and visitors of these settings. For the latest guidance on public health measures during the COVID-19 pandemic for Businesses and Organizations, visit <https://www.durham.ca/en/health-and-wellness/community-reopening-toolkit.aspx>

General steps to reduce transmission of illness:

Staff and Volunteers

Plan for staff and volunteer absences. Identify critical job functions and positions, and plan for alternative coverage by cross-training centre staff. Encourage ill staff and volunteers to stay home (or be sent home if they develop symptoms while at the facility) to prevent transmitting the infection to others. Ill staff and volunteers should stay home until they no longer have a fever and their symptoms have been improving for at least 24 hours (and 48 hours for gastrointestinal symptoms such as nausea, vomiting, and/or diarrhea). Ensure staff and volunteers are also trained in the use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).

Isolation Spaces for Symptomatic Individuals

If a staff member or visitor is symptomatic (e.g. cough, fever, difficulty breathing), provide the person with a tight fitted mask (if necessary) and move them to a separate area away from others.

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



Wearing Masks

It is recommended to [wear tight-fitted masks](#) indoors when physical distancing cannot be maintained. It is especially important to do so when working with individuals at higher risk of illness.

(<https://www.durham.ca/en/health-and-wellness/resources/Documents/Novel-Coronavirus/COVID-Keep-Safe-Using-Face-Mask.pdf>)

Physical Distancing

Maintain physical distancing within warming and cooling centres of at least 2 meters between individuals as much as possible.

Cleaning and Disinfection

[Clean and disinfect](#) environmental and commonly touched surfaces routinely throughout the day. Health Canada maintains a list of hard-surface disinfectants and their Drug Identification Numbers (DIN) that are effective and approved to be sold in Canada. Ensure the disinfectant that is being used has a DIN on the label. Please follow all manufacturer directions, including appropriate contact time.

If an area is visibly soiled, it should be cleaned with a cleaner (or soap and water) before applying the disinfectant. (<https://www.durham.ca/en/health-and-wellness/resources/Documents/PublicHealthInspectionsandInvestigations/CleaningDisinfectingFA.pdf>)

Disinfect tables and chairs between patrons. Provide a safe place for visitors to dispose of garbage.

Please refer to Public Health Ontario's [cleaning and disinfection guidelines for public settings](#) for further guidance. (<https://www.publichealthontario.ca/-/media/documents/ncov/factsheet-covid-19-environmental-cleaning.pdf?la=en>)

Personal Hygiene

Provide resources to promote the practice of proper hand hygiene by following [proper handwashing](#) and [hand sanitizing](#) methods. Also post [Help prevent the spread of respiratory infections](#) and [Cover your Cough](#) posters in visible locations on-site.

<https://www.durham.ca/en/health-and-wellness/resources/Documents/HealthyLiving/DUHEV280handwashingEN.pdf>

<https://www.durham.ca/en/health-and-wellness/resources/Documents/HealthyLiving/DUHEV294HandSanitizerEN.pdf>

<https://www.durham.ca/en/health-and-wellness/resources/Documents/Novel-Coronavirus/Stop-Spread-Of-Germs.pdf>

<https://www.durham.ca/en/health-and-wellness/resources/Documents/IllnessInfectionDisease/coverCoughCommunity.pdf>

Infectious Disease Prevention Supplies

Provide prevention supplies such as soap, tissues, trash baskets, and alcohol-based hand rubs (ABHR) with an alcohol concentration of 70-90% on hand for staff, volunteers, and visitors.

Check liquid hand soap, paper towels, and ABHR dispensers regularly to ensure continuous provision. Single-use, disposable products are preferred. If using refillable dispensers, ensure they are cleaned first followed by disinfection between refills. They should never be "topped-up".

It is recommended that a supply of masks are available on-site for any visitors who may not have a mask.

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Additional Resources

Durham Region Health Department's up-to-date COVID-19 community resources - <https://www.durham.ca/en/health-and-wellness/novel-coronavirus-update.aspx>

Durham Region's COVID-19 Guidance and Advice for Businesses and Organizations - <https://www.durham.ca/en/health-and-wellness/community-reopening-toolkit.aspx>

Emergency Supports for Unsheltered-Residents:

Local Municipalities COVID-19 Response Information – <https://www.durham.ca/en/regional-government/covid-19-community-resources.aspx#Emergency-Supports-for-Unsheltered-Residents>

North Durham Community Resources – <https://www.durham.ca/en/regional-government/covid-19-community-resources.aspx#NorthDurhamCommunityResources>

Provincial Infectious Diseases Advisory Committee on Infection Prevention and Control (PIDAC) Best Practice documents - <https://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/health-topics/infection-prevention-control/best-practices-ipac>

Health Canada hard surface disinfectant databases:

Hard-surface disinfectants and hand sanitizers (COVID-19): List of disinfectants with evidence for use against COVID-19 - <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/drugs-health-products/disinfectants/covid-19/list.html>

Hard-surface disinfectants and hand sanitizers (COVID-19): Disinfectants and hand sanitizers accepted under COVID-19 interim measure - <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/drugs-health-products/disinfectants/covid-19/products-accepted-under-interim-measure.html>

Drug Product Database online query - <https://health-products.canada.ca/dpd-bdpp/index-eng.jsp>

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