

Child care and early learning e-newsletter

February 23, 2021

Welcome to The Regional Municipality of Durham's Child Care and Early Learning updates e-newsletter. These e-newsletters provide licensed child care operators in Durham Region with updated information related to child care.

This edition includes the following topics:

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Clarification/Updates

Ministry of Education Updates: Revised Screening Requirements and Updated Health and Safety Measures

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Clarification/Updates

Concerns regarding approved PPE for child care centres were recently raised. This message provides clarity and resolution and replaces any messages relayed previously.

The Ministry of Government and Consumer Services (MGCS) is responsible for the distribution of PPE to child care centres across the Province on behalf of the Ministry of Education. They have confirmed that:

- All products distributed by the Ministry of Government and Consumer Services have Health Canada's approval.
- No short cuts are taken on products purchased directly from suppliers; they are of the utmost quality.
- If purchasing from overseas, MGCS have supply chain experts who help identify quality manufacturers to make sure every product has the appropriate safety fact sheets and approvals.
- In addition, prior to being accepted into the pandemic stockpile, all products undergo a rigorous quality assurance process when they arrive to warehouses to ensure that they are safe and effective for front-line staff use.

Initially, the list of approved devices being used to inform approvals included only one of four possible lists from Health Canada, thereby limiting the search options of approved PPE and creating confusion. This is clarified below:

Health Canada authorizes medical devices for uses related to COVID-19 as per the [Ministry of Health Authorized Medical Devices for uses related to COVID-19](#):

Class I devices (such as masks, respirators, eye protection, gowns and swabs)

Class I medical devices can be imported or sold according to **one of 4** possible mechanisms:

- the manufacturer or importer holds a Medical Device Establishment Licence (MDEL)
- the device is included in the list of authorized medical devices other than testing devices
- the device is included in the list of medical devices for expanded use in relation to COVID-19
- the device is included in the list of medical devices for exceptional importation and sale

If you have questions about PPE received in your Ministry shipment, please email MGCS at sco.supplies@ontario.ca and they will be able to provide information on specific products.

The [Health Canada Website](#) also provides additional details.

Thank you for your patience as we navigate this ever-changing situation.

Ministry of Education Updates: Revised Screening Requirements and Updated Health and Safety Measures

On February 22, 2021, The Ministry of Education released the attached memo regarding new Operational Guidance for child care to align with updates for schools.

The operational guidance document will be updated soon to include the Version 5 (V5) changes. Please check back often for V5 [Operational Guidance for child care](#).

The memo outlines the updates to:

1. The Provincial school and child care screening tool (new screening requirements)
2. Isolation requirement for household contacts of symptomatic individuals
3. Masking/PPE requirements
4. Use of gymnasiums for before and after school programs