

COVID-19 INFORMATION

GUIDANCE FOR APPROVED FAMILY DAY HOME/ GROUP FAMILY CHILD CARE PROGRAMS

Overview

Under current Chief Medical Officer of Health Orders, businesses and entities are required to:

- implement practices to minimize the risk of transmission of infection among attendees;
- provide procedures for rapid response if an attendee develops symptoms of illness;
- ensure that attendees maintain high levels of sanitation and personal hygiene;
- comply, to the extent possible, with the [COVID-19 General Relaunch Guidance](#), this guidance, and any other applicable Alberta Health guidance found at: <https://www.alberta.ca/biz-connect.aspx>.

This document has been developed to support approved family day home agencies and licenced group family child care programs in reducing the risk of transmission of COVID-19. This guidance builds upon the [Alberta Health Services Health and Safety Childcare Guidelines](#). The guidance provided outlines public health and infection prevention control measures, specific to this setting.

All licensed group family child care programs and approved family day home providers and child care providers will also be required to be in compliance with applicable zoning and health and safety legislation, including the [Child Care Licensing Act](#) and/or [Child Care Licensing Regulation](#), and/or Alberta's Family Day Home Standards.

In the event of a conflict between this document and the AHS Health and Safety Childcare Guidelines, this document will prevail.

COVID-19 Risk Mitigation

Staff and screening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Before every shift, child care providers must assess themselves and anyone else in the home for symptoms of COVID-19 (See Appendix A).
Entering and exiting the child care home	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Programs must develop procedures for drop off and pick up that support physical distancing. • Parents and guardians can enter the home when required, but should minimize the time spent there and at all times stay two metres away from the provider(s), other children in the home, and other residents of the home. • There should be no non-essential visitors in the home. • Records should only be kept for 2 weeks. An organization must make reasonable security arrangements to protect the personal information. • Any personal information that is collected for COVID-19 contact tracing can only be used for this purpose, unless an individual provides their consent • For more information, the Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner has released Pandemic FAQ: Customer Lists about collecting personal information from customers during the COVID-19 pandemic. • Family day home agency consultants visiting approved provider homes must wear a mask and must wash their hands (or use alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol) when entering or exiting the home. Information on how to use a mask can be found at www.alberta.ca/prevent-the-spread.aspx.
Sick child, parents, provider(s), or	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parents and children must not attend the program if they have symptoms of COVID-19 even if symptoms resemble a mild cold.

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<p>provider home residents</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providers must not open their home for child care if they or anyone else residing in the home has symptoms of COVID-19. • Children should be screened for symptoms using the attached tool (Appendix A) Children with symptoms should not enter the day home. Parents should fill out the Alberta Health Services Online Assessment tool to arrange testing. • Ask parents and guardians to check the temperatures of their children daily before coming to the program. For reference, normal temperatures are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Mouth: 35.5 – 37.5 C(95.9-99.5 F) ○ Underarm: 36.5 – 37.5 C (97.7 – 99.5 F) ○ Ear (not recommended in infants): 35.8-38.0°C (96.4-100.4°F) • If a child develops symptoms while in the day home, the child should be isolated in a separate room and the parent or guardian should be notified to come and pick up the child immediately. If a separate room is not available, the child needs to be kept at least 2 metres away from other children. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ All items, bedding, toys etc. used by the child while isolated should be cleaned and disinfected as soon as the child has been picked up. Items that cannot be cleaned and disinfected (e.g. paper, books, cardboard puzzles) should be removed from the centre and stored in a sealed container for a minimum of 10 days. ○ If the child is young and requires close contact and care, staff can continue to care for the child until the parent is able to pick the child. Staff should wear a mask during all interactions with the child and should avoid contact with the child's respiratory secretions. ○ Staff should wash their hands before donning a mask and before and after removing the mask (as per Alberta Health mask guidance), and before and after touching any items used by the child. • Programs should keep records of children's known pre-existing conditions. If a child develops symptoms that could be caused by either COVID-19 or by a known pre-existing condition (e.g. allergies), the child should be tested for COVID-19 to confirm that it is not the source of their symptoms before entering or returning to the program. • If two or more children are identified as having symptoms consistent with COVID-19, the child care program should follow outbreak notification procedures as per routine zone protocols. • Any home connected to a confirmed or probable case of COVID19 will be required to close for a minimum of 72 hours to allow contact tracing, and then adhere to recommendations from Alberta Health Services.
<p>Cleaning and disinfecting items</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Programs should engage in frequent, thorough cleaning and disinfecting each day. • With the exception of diaper change tables, clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces as per AHS' Guidelines for Environmental Cleaning of Public Facilities during Respiratory Illnesses in the Community https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/assets/info/ppih/if-ppih-covid-19-environmental-cleaning-public-facilities.pdf <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Cleaning and disinfection of diapering areas must continue to be done as per usual protocols. • Cleaning and disinfecting of toys should be done by ensuring you: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Wash with detergent and water

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Rinse with clean warm water ○ Wipe, spray or immerse for 2 minutes in an approved disinfectant. ○ Allow time to air dry ● Discontinue shared use of items that cannot be cleaned and disinfected (natural materials such as acorns, sticks, cardboard etc.) ● Ensure mouthed toys are immediately put into a designated bucket to be cleaned and disinfected. ● Soft toys (plush toys and blankets) should not be shared at this time. Launder in hot water and dryer between children or discontinue use. ● Close all shared sensory tables including water tables, sand tables, shared play dough. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Individual sensory bins or activities that are not shared between children may be used (play dough labelled for individual child use, small individual water bowl with sensory activities).
<p>Safe practices onsite</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Activities cannot violate a public health order. To help plan activities, staff should ask themselves the following questions to determine the risk of the activities and whether they are allowed to proceed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Does the activity involve shared surfaces or objects frequently touched by hands? ○ Can an activity be modified to increase opportunities for physical distancing? ● Where possible, physical distancing practices should occur, for example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Avoid close greetings like hugs or handshakes and encourage physically-distant greetings such as “air fives” and waves, ○ Plan for physically-distant activities such as shadow tag and where possible avoid activities that require clustering around a particular item or part of the room. ● Keep a physical distance of 2 metres when possible. While it is understood that caring for children does not always allow for a 2 metre separation, where possible it is still recommended this distance be maintained. ● Plan for physically-distant activities such as shadow tag and, where possible, avoid activities that require clustering around a particular item or small area. ● For naps, increase distance between sleeping mats/cots up to 2 metres if possible, and always practice head-to-toe placement. ● Program staff may choose to wear a mask in circumstances where it is not possible to maintain 2 metres distance (e.g., assisting with feeding, or changing a diaper). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ If masks are worn, Alberta Health mask guidance must be followed and can be found here: https://www.alberta.ca/prevent-the-spread.aspx. ○ Once a mask has been removed, it should be thrown in a lined trash bin (disposable masks) or placed in a sealed container to be laundered (reusable masks). ○ Young children are unlikely to be able to wear a mask properly and not touch it so mask wearing is not recommended. ● For food service, meals and snacks: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Programs may provide food to children, however no family style meal

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	<p>service and they must not allow the children to self-serve.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Cease activities involving child participation in food preparation. • Where possible children should practice social distancing while eating. • There should be no common food items (e.g. salt and pepper shakers). • Meals should be served in individual portions by a designated staff member to each child. • Utensils should be used to serve food items (not fingers). • Child care providers should use the following handwashing guidelines. Engage in frequent handwashing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds at the following times: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Before caring for a child each day and at the end of the day. ○ After going to the washroom. ○ After a diaper change (both children and providers). ○ Before preparing food. ○ Before and after eating. ○ After getting hands dirty. ○ After wiping nose or handling dirty tissues. ○ After blowing nose. ○ After cleaning tasks (providers).
<p>Outdoor play</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providers are encouraged to avoid use of shared community playgrounds for outdoor play and instead use alternatives, such as walks and supervised play in parks and other safe open spaces. Follow physical distancing practices when possible • Providers or family day home agency staff may contact their Children’s Services licensing officer for advice on suitable outdoor spaces in their area. Find contact information for local Children’s Services offices at https://www.alberta.ca/childrens-services-offices.aspx.
<p>Other resources</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General information regarding COVID-19 (Government of Alberta) www.alberta.ca/coronavirus-info-for-albertans.aspx • How to hand wash (AHS) https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/assets/healthinfo/ipc/if-hp-ipc-flu-handwash-how-to.pdf • How to use alcohol-based hand sanitizer (AHS) https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/assets/healthinfo/ipc/if-hp-flu-hand-rub-how-to.pdf • Diapering procedures poster (AHS) https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/assets/wf/eph/wf-eph-diapering-procedure-poster.pdf • Hand washing posters (AHS) https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/assets/wf/eph/wf-eh-you-d-clean-em.pdf https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/assets/wf/eph/wf-eh-you-d-clean-em-2.pdf • Arts and crafts safety (AHS) https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/assets/wf/eph/wf-eh-arts-crafts-safety.pdf

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APPENDIX A

Screening Questionnaire

PARENTS /GUARDIANS MUST FILL OUT THIS QUESTIONNAIRE TO DECIDE IF THE CHILD SHOULD ENTER TODAY

Risk Assessment: Initial Screening Questions

1.	Do you, or your child attending the program, have any of the below symptoms:	CIRCLE ONE	
	• Fever	YES	NO
	• Cough	YES	NO
	• Shortness of Breath / Difficulty Breathing	YES	NO
	• Sore throat	YES	NO
	• Chills	YES	NO
	• Painful swallowing	YES	NO
	• Runny Nose / Nasal Congestion	YES	NO
	• Feeling unwell / Fatigued	YES	NO
	• Nausea / Vomiting / Diarrhea	YES	NO
	• Unexplained loss of appetite	YES	NO
	• Loss of sense of taste or smell	YES	NO
	• Muscle/ Joint aches	YES	NO
	• Headache	YES	NO
	• Conjunctivitis (Pink eye)	YES	NO
2.	Has your child travelled outside of Canada in the last 14 days or has someone in the household travelled outside of Canada in the last 14 days and is ill?	YES	NO
3.	Have you or your children attending the program had close <u>unprotected*</u> contact (face-to-face contact within 2 meters/6 feet) in the last 14 days with someone who is ill with cough and/or fever?	YES	NO
4.	Have you or anyone in your household been in close <u>unprotected</u> contact in the last 14 days with someone who is being investigated or confirmed to be a case of COVID-19?	YES	NO

* “unprotected” means close contact without appropriate personal protection equipment (PPE).

If you have answered “**Yes**” to any of the above questions, please **DO NOT** enter at this time.

If you have answered “**No**” to all the above questions, please sign in and out and practice hand hygiene (wash hands for 20 seconds, and or use hand sanitizer) before and after your visit.

Our goal is to minimize the risk of infection to our staff and children, thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

Name _____

Signature _____

Date _____

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