



ALBERTA

CHILDREN'S SERVICES

Office of the Minister

**Ministerial
Order
No. 2020-03**

WHEREAS the Lieutenant Governor in Council made Order in Council 080/2020 under section 52.1(1) of the *Public Health Act* (PHA) on March 17, 2020 declaring a state of public health emergency in Alberta due to pandemic COVID-19 and the significant likelihood of pandemic influenza;

WHEREAS Order in Council 080/2020 has effect for 90 days following March 17, 2020 under section 52.8(1)(a) of the PHA;

WHEREAS section 52.1(3) of the PHA authorizes the Minister of Children's Services (Minister) to make an order, without consultation, to suspend or modify the application or operation of all or part of an enactment, subject to the terms and conditions the Minister prescribes, if the Minister is satisfied that the application or operation of all or part of the enactment is not in the public interest; and

WHEREAS I am satisfied that the application or operation of all or part of the *Child Care Licensing Act* (CCLA) and *Child Care Licensing Regulation* (CCLR) is not in the public interest because more stringent regulatory requirements respecting the child care programs that may operate pursuant to the Chief Medical Officer of Health (CMOH) Order 04-2020 (which amends CMOH Order 01-2020) are required to address the significant public health risks posed by COVID-19;

THEREFORE, I, Rebecca Schulz, Minister of Children's Services, pursuant to section 52.1(2) of the PHA, do hereby order that:

1. The provisions of the CCLA and the CCLR are modified or suspended to the extent required to give effect to the conditions and requirements set out in Appendix A to this Order.
2. This Order lapses, unless it is sooner continued by an order of the Lieutenant Governor in Council under section 52.81(3) of the PHA, at the earliest of the following:
 - (a) August 14, 2020;
 - (b) 60 days after Order in Council 080/2020 is terminated by the Lieutenant Governor in Council, if Order in Council 080/2020 is terminated before June 15, 2020;
 - (c) when the Minister is satisfied that this Order is no longer in the public interest; or

(d) when this Order is terminated by the Lieutenant Governor in Council under section 52.811(1)(c) of the PHA.

3. Ministerial Order 2020-02 is hereby rescinded.

DATED at Edmonton, Alberta this 7th day of April, 2020.



Rebecca Schulz
Minister of Children's Service

APPENDIX A

1. Any words used in this Appendix A which are defined in the CCLA or CCLR have the same meaning as they have in the CCLA and CCLR.
2. The child care programs that may operate in accordance with this Ministerial Order are to be determined at the sole discretion of the director of the CCLA, and at a minimum:
 - a. are limited to day care programs and out of school care programs;
 - b. must have a licenced capacity of 30 or more children; and
 - c. must meet any other criteria as determined by the director.
3. The licence holder is to operate the program with a maximum occupancy of 24 children and six (6) child care staff.
4. The maximum capacity of any room at the program premises, at any one time, is 10 persons, including staff and children.
5. The licence holder must maintain their licensing requirements for staff to children ratios at all times.
6. The requirements respecting the maximum number of children in a group set out in the CCLR, Schedule 1, sections 27(1)(b), 27(3)(b) and 27(4) and in Schedule 4, section 24(1)(b) respecting kindergarten children are suspended.
7. The requirements respecting the maximum number of children in a group set out in the CCLR, Schedule 4:
 - a. in section 24(1)(b) for children attending grades 1 and higher is reduced from 30 to 24; and
 - b. in section 24(3) is reduced from 25 to 24.
8. The licence holder must ensure that no children, staff or parents enter the program premises if they are ill, even if symptoms resemble a mild cold. Symptoms include, but are not limited to:
 - a. fever,
 - b. cough,
 - c. shortness of breath/difficulty breathing,
 - d. sore throat,
 - e. runny nose,
 - f. nasal congestion,
 - g. headache,
 - h. muscle aches,
 - i. nausea/vomiting/diarrhea,
 - j. feeling unwell/fatigued.

9. If a child develops any symptoms of illness while on the premises:
- a. The licence holder must isolate the child in a separate room away from the other children and ensure the child's parent arranges for the immediate removal of the child from the premises.
 - b. If a separate room is not available, the child must be kept at least 2 meters away from other children and staff. If the child is of an age that the child requires close contact and care, staff may continue to care for the child until the parent is able to remove the child from the premises.
 - c. The licence holder must ensure staff take all reasonable precautions to avoid contact with the respiratory secretions of the child.
 - d. All items, such as bedding, toys etc., used by the child while isolated must be sanitized as soon as the child has been removed from the premises.
10. The licence holder must ensure that an active symptoms screening, in the form provided in **Attachment 1**, is completed with each parent before the parent leaves their child at the program premises. The licence holder must ensure that the parent or child does not enter the program premises if the screening determines they should not enter.
11. The licence holder must post in a clearly visible and prominent place on the premises a direction to parents to take their child's temperature upon initial registration to the program, and on a daily basis thereafter before attending the program. For reference, normal temperatures are:
- 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)
12. The licence holder is to encourage parents to provide meals and snacks for their children. If a parent does not provide food, the licence holder may provide the child food. The licence holder must ensure that:
- a. children do not serve themselves food items that are not individually wrapped;
 - b. there are no common food items served (e.g. shared snack bowl); and
 - c. utensils are used to serve and eat food items (not fingers).

Attachment 2 provides additional information.

13. The licence holder must ensure that:
- a. water in play tables is changed between groups of children and that the basin is washed, rinsed, and sanitized;
 - b. any child participating in an activity at a water play table or basin washes his or her hands before participating in the activity; and

- c. the water table or basin must be emptied as soon as the activity is over.
14. The licence holder and staff must comply with the Alberta Health Services Childcare Guidelines. The guidelines can be found here:

<https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/assets/wf/eph/wf-eh-health-safety-guidelines-childcare-facilities.pdf>.
15. The licence holder must ensure that staff and children engage in frequent handwashing with soap and water (alcohol based hand rub (ABHR) is not recommended for routine use in child care) for at least 20 seconds at the following times:
 - a. at the start of the day and before going home;
 - b. after going to the washroom;
 - c. after a diaper change (applies to both children and staff);
 - d. before preparing food;
 - e. before eating;
 - f. after getting hands dirty;
 - g. after wiping nose or handling dirty tissues;
 - h. after blowing nose; and
 - i. after cleaning tasks (applies to staff).

Staff are to assist young children to ensure handwashing is done correctly.

16. The licence holder must ensure staff engage in frequent and thorough cleaning each day the program is operated. In addition to any existing licensing or regulatory requirements regarding cleaning, sanitizing and disinfecting, staff must clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces as per the AHS Guidelines found at:

<https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/assets/wf/eph/wf-eh-health-safety-guidelines-childcare-facilities.pdf>
17. The licence holder must ensure that no non-essential visitors and no volunteers are provided access to the program premises. Parents and guardians may access the premises.
18. The licence holder must ensure the following signs are posted in a clearly visible and prominent space on the premises:
 - a. signs that remind staff and children to perform hand hygiene (sneeze/cough into their elbow, put used tissues in a waste receptacle and to wash hands immediately after using tissues); and
 - b. signs prohibiting persons from entering the program premises if they are ill (even if symptoms resemble a mild cold).
19. Where possible, the licence holder and staff will ensure social distancing practices are followed, for example, avoid close greetings like hugs or handshakes.

ATTACHMENT 1 - SCREENING QUESTIONNAIRE

ESSENTIAL VISITORS – FILL OUT THIS QUESTIONNAIRE TO DECIDE IF YOU MAY ENTER TODAY

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 / Difficult Breathing	YES	NO
	• Sore throat	YES	NO
	• Runny Nose / Nasal Congestion	YES	NO
	• Feeling unwell / Fatigued	YES	NO
	• Nausea / Vomiting / Diarrhea	YES	NO
	• Muscle Aches	YES	NO
	• Headache	YES	NO
	• Conjunctivitis	YES	NO
2.	Have you, or anyone in your household travelled outside of Canada in the last 14 days?	YES	NO
3.	Have you or your children attending the program had close unprotected* contact (face-to-face contact within 2 meters/6 feet) with someone who is ill with cough and/or fever?	YES	NO
4.	Have you or anyone in your household been in close, unprotected* contact in the last 14 days with someone that is being investigated or confirmed to be a case of COVID-19?	YES	NO

*“**unprotected**” means the individual was not wearing appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) during the close contact

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 30 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, and your family. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

Print Name

Signature

Date

ATTACHMENT 2 – FOOD HANDLING GUIDANCE

Best practice is that parents provide their own food for their child. If this is not possible, the following guidance applies:

- Close buffet lines, or, have staff dispense foods from the buffet onto plates for children.
- Cease family-style meal service.
- Remove shared food containers from dining areas (e.g., shared pitchers of water, milk, salt & pepper shakers, etc.).
- If using single service packets of condiments, provide packet directly to each child, rather than self-serve in a bulk container.
- For snack programs, dispense snacks directly to children and use prepackaged snacks only.
- Close the kitchen/nourishment areas off that could be accessed by children/visitors.
- Cease activities involving child participation in food preparation.
- Other measures as necessary/appropriate if directed by local public health.
- Ensure that food handling staff:
 - practice meticulous hand hygiene
 - are excluded from work if they are symptomatic