



March 30, 2022

Children's Services
Social & Community Services
Department
Halton Region
690 Dorval Drive 5th Floor
Oakville ON L6K 3X9

RE: COVID-19 Guidance Updates March 2022

Dear Service Providers,

This letter summarizes up-to-date COVID-19 health and safety measures in child care. As communicated in the [Ministry of Education memo dated March 9, 2022](#), the province is returning school and child care programs to a more normal learning environment, while maintaining the protective measures outlined in the memo. Here are the most recent updates:

- The Ministry of Education's school and child care-specific operational guidance has been archived and will not be updated. The archived version of the guidance documents can be found on the [Ministry's website](#). The Ministry of Education has amended related COVID-19 requirements in the CCEYA regulation.
- The Ministry of Health has consolidated all case and contact management guidance documents into the updated [COVID-19 Integrated Testing & Case, Contact and Outbreak Management Interim Guidance: Omicron Surge](#).
- Appropriate hand hygiene, respiratory etiquette, cleaning and disinfecting as well as daily screening should continue. These health and safety measures for child care can be [found here](#).
- Service Providers are permitted to have policies that go above and beyond the requirements set out in the CCEYA and its regulation. However, the policies and protocols cannot conflict with obligations under the CCEYA and other legislation.

Halton Region Public Health

- Halton Region Public Health is in alignment with provincial guidance and does not have additional recommendations for child care.
- The Province and Halton Region Public Health will continue to monitor and update the public on key indicators related to COVID-19 transmission to assist members of the public with making informed decisions about the measures they use to protect themselves and those around them.

Regional Municipality of Halton

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- The Province and Halton Region Public Health will also provide additional guidance in response to rising rates of COVID-19 if necessary.
- Service Providers should continue to report absenteeism rates of 30% or more above baseline, to Halton Region Public Health through the [reporting tool](#).

International Travel

It is important for families who travel to be aware of [COVID-19 travel restrictions](#) as they change frequently.

- Upon return from international travel, under [current federal travel requirements](#), for the first 14 days, individuals must wear a mask at all times when in public spaces (including schools and child care) and continue to monitor for signs and symptoms of COVID-19.
- [Children under 12 years old, travelling with fully vaccinated adults](#) are exempt from self-isolation and no longer need to wait 14 days before attending school, camp, or daycare.
- Children under 5 years old are not required to wear a mask for 14 days after returning from travel.

Daily Screening

While the daily on-site confirmation of screening for students and staff will no longer be required, staff and children should continue to self-screen every day before attending child care. [The COVID-19 school and child care screening tool](#) is updated to include self-isolation and masking requirements. Children should not attend school if they are sick.

Isolation Requirements

Individuals with symptoms of COVID-19 and who have not tested positive for COVID-19 in the past 90 days, are presumed to have COVID-19 and should self-isolate immediately for a minimum of 5 days or until COVID-19 is ruled out by testing. Household members without symptoms of COVID-19 who live with a confirmed case or someone with symptoms, are no longer required to isolate if they:

- are 17 or younger and have received two doses of COVID-19 vaccine, OR
- are 18+ and have received three doses of COVID-19 vaccine, OR

- have tested positive for COVID-19 in the last 90 days and completed their isolation period.

Household members that do not meet the criteria must self-isolate while the symptomatic or confirmed case is isolating.

For detailed information on COVID-19 testing and isolation requirements, please visit our website at [Halton.ca/covid](https://halton.ca/covid).

While key indicators are improving, COVID-19 transmission continues in our community. Some people may be comfortable with the lifting of restrictions, while others may be anxious or uncertain. We need to continue respecting and supporting each other as a community during this transition period. Please be kind and respectful of others' choices. Compassion and kindness are essential as we transition to fewer restrictions together.

If you have questions about sector-specific COVID-19 guidance, please contact childcareservices@halton.ca, or call 311.

Once again, we appreciate your commitment to keeping children and families safe and healthy during the past two years. Thank you for your dedication amid changing times and ensuring high-quality child care has remained available for families.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Donette Phillips".

Donette Phillips
Manager, Direct Child Care Services