



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

March 4, 2022

RE: COVID-19 Guidance Updates

Dear Service Providers,

Please be advised that the COVID-19 Child Care Operational Guidance, Before and After School Program guidance and EarlyON operational guidance documents were updated on February 7, 2022. The updated child care guidance can be found on the [Ontario.ca website](#) or the [Halton COVID-19 Information for Child Care Operators page](#).

A summary of the updates are below:

- Addition of the section on Immunization Disclosure Policy
- Update to use of masks and other personal protective equipment (PPE) to include the option of non-fit tested N95 masks for adults and the condition that children should stay within their cohort as much as possible during breaks outdoors
- Change to monitoring and responding to reports of COVID-19 symptoms to direct providers/licensees to the provincial [COVID-19 screening tool](#) and the Ministry of Health's [interim guidance for schools and child care Omicron surge](#) for symptom screening, monitoring and isolation procedures
- Change to reporting and serious occurrence reporting and Outbreak management to direct to the Ministry of Health's [COVID-19: interim guidance for schools and child care: Omicron surge guidance](#)

Halton Region Public Health Child Care Recommendations:

With the latest COVID-19 provincial guidance for childcare, Halton Region Public Health will follow the provincial guidance document and **not require any additional health and safety measures**. The recommendations from Public Health are now aligned with provincial guidance and the Recommendations for Licensed Child Care Settings document will be removed from Halton.ca.

Regional Municipality of Halton

HEAD OFFICE: 1151 Bronte Rd, Oakville, ON L6M 3L1
905-825-6000 | Toll free: 1-866-442-5866

This does not require changed actions in COVID-19 protocol for child care operators. The four Halton Region Public Health recommendations, listed below, are now referenced in the [COVID-19: Operational Guidance for child care](#) document. Where the content of each recommendation is located in the operational guidance is linked below.

1. Halton Public Health strongly recommends masking for children in kindergarten while indoors and when taking child care transportation. ([Health and Safety Requirements #5 Use of masks and other personal protective equipment](#))
2. Halton Public Health strongly recommends children remain in their designated cohort indoors and during outdoor activities/play and maintain a 2 metres distance from other cohorts. ([Licensing Requirements #3 Maximum group size and ratio](#); [Operational guidance: in program considerations #5 Space set-up and physical distancing](#))
3. Halton Public Health strongly recommends that supervisors and/or designates, staff and students on educational placements limit movement between child care locations and between licenced age groups (cohorts) and remain with the same cohort in the same space as much as possible. ([Licensing Requirements #5 Staffing](#))
4. Halton Public Health strongly recommends no large gatherings indoors or outdoors. ([Operational Guidance: in-program considerations #4 Visitors and students on placement](#))

30% Absenteeism Online Reporting for Childcare

Child care operators should contact Halton Region Public Health when absenteeism rates rise to a defined level of 30% or more above baseline in their centre. The reporting tool [30% Absenteeism Online Reporting for Schools/Childcare/Camps](#) is available to report absenteeism rates to Halton Region Public Health. It is also on the COVID-19 Information for Child Care Operators webpage.

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

Yours sincerely,



Donette Phillips
Manager, Direct Child Care Services