

# SUSPECTED OR CONFIRMED COVID-19 – WHAT TO DO?

**CUPE**

Prior to reopening, the employer should designate a separate room and/or area away from all other workers and children in the event of a child or staff becoming unwell.

The room and workers should be prepared and trained in advance. In the event it needs to be used, at a minimum the following items should be on hand;

- Hand Sanitizers/Hand-washing station
- Signage
- Disposal Area as appropriate
- Designated Washroom
- Supplies for Child – Diapers, Blanket, Toys (that may be cleaned, sanitized, disinfected or disposed of, as appropriate)
- Tissues
- Cleaning and Disinfection Supplies
- Personal Protective Equipment – Gloves, Gown, Goggles or Face Shield and Mask\*

- Equipment/facilities to deal with a person who is unwell (place to sit/lie down)

\*If there is a respiratory hazard present in the workplace, the employer must take reasonable precautions against that hazard, including the use of PPE suitable for respiratory protection.

## SCREENING

Screening should be done before parents and children enter the facility. It should involve both the child and the adult dropping them off. Refer to COVID-19 Patient Screening Guidance Document. Workers must be trained on how to do this safely, including what PPE they are to wear and what procedures and questionnaires they are to use and follow.

## POSITIVE SCREENING: Next Steps

If screening indicates the need for further action, consider the following:

- If screening prior to entry, the individuals involved should be refused entry to the facility and given the appropriate guidance.
- If a child or adult develop symptoms while they are in the facility, they should be isolated immediately, and appropriate isolation measures applied.

### ARRIVAL AT THE FACILITY

Screening before entry

Allowed entry

Denied entry

### INSIDE THE FACILITY, SHOWING SYMPTOMS?

Move safely to the screening point

If negative result, return to normal

If positive result, apply isolation measures

Isolation measures should include but not be limited to:

- Contacting their parents/guardian immediately for pick up.
- Isolate the child or adult in a separate room or space away from all other workers and staff.
- Bring all of the individual's belonging to the isolation room safely. For example, a plastic bag can be used to prevent contamination of other items or the worker's clothing.
- Clean the areas where contact has been made by the isolated person and staff assigned.
- Do not include the individual in any program activity, group meals and/or group napping.
- Restrict activity of child and the care of the child to room and/or separate area.
- Having staff and equipment dedicated to the screening and/or isolation room (as appropriate)

They should report their symptoms to their supervisor/manager and contact their local public health unit for advice.

Testing should be arranged by calling the local public health unit by the parents/guardian or with consent, the childcare worker.

While waiting for the child to be picked up;

- Choose a room in the residence with a door that can be closed to separate the child who is unwell.
- Only one and the same staff should be in the designated room and attempt physical distancing from the ill child by maintaining a distance of 2 meters. If physical distancing cannot be avoided, staff should wear appropriate PPE, as determined by their risk assessment. The ill child should also wear a surgical mask, however it is not recommended for children under the age of 2.
- Staff should perform hand hygiene frequently and attempt to not touch their face with unwashed hands.
- Increase ventilation in the designated exclusion room if possible (e.g., open windows)
- If a private room is not possible, make sure the room has good airflow (open windows as security protocols and weather permits), that the child and staff can be kept 2 metres or 6 feet away from other people and wear a surgical/procedure mask, if possible.

- If the room must be shared by more than one person who is unwell, these people are not required to wear masks but the worker must still wear required PPE.
- Identify a separate bathroom for individuals to use, if possible.
- If a private bathroom is not available, consider developing a schedule for use with the unwell child going last, followed by a thorough cleaning of the bathroom.
- If staff are advised to transport the individual to an Assessment Centre, arrange private transportation (no public transit is allowed) and have the individual wear a surgical/procedure mask. If possible, the individual should sit alone in the backseat and open the car windows if possible. The driver of the vehicle should wear a mask.
- Individuals must remain in the designated isolated room until their departure, including for receiving meals and activities.
- If the unwell person gets worse and needs to go to the hospital because of severe symptoms (e.g., severe difficulty breathing, severe chest pain, very hard time waking up, confusion, loss of consciousness), call 911 and inform them that the person is suspected of having COVID-19 so that the hospital can be notified and the paramedics can take the necessary precautions.

## **AFTER ISOLATION**

- After the individual is removed from isolated room or separate space, a thorough cleaning and disinfection of the room must be conducted immediately.
- Staff and children who were in the same room with the individual will be kept together and not mix with other care groups for 14 days where possible
- Staff should self-monitor for symptoms for the next 14 days. During this period, they should avoid contact with vulnerable persons or settings where there are vulnerable persons (i.e., long-term care homes).
- The employer will inform staff, parents/guardians of children who were in the same room of the possible exposure, and what instructions or next steps they should take in the circumstance.
- Children or staff who have been exposed to a confirmed case of COVID-19 or symptomatic person(s) should be excluded from the childcare centre for 14 days. Staff should not be penalized