



PEI Chief Public Health Office COVID-19 Response

Conditions for Re-opening Select Licensed Child Care Centres

Child care centres being considered to accommodate the needs of essential service workers will be required to be in compliance with applicable zoning, health and safety legislation. This includes all requirements within the *Early Learning and Child Care Act and Regulations*. **These centres are subject to inspection at any time.**

These centres will not be permitted to operate if they are within close proximity to a vulnerable population (e.g. community care facilities). In addition to these requirements, these centres must adhere to additional public health measures. These measures are listed below.

The centre will be required to close if either a child or staff member tests positive for coronavirus (COVID-19), or any other imminent health hazard, at the discretion of a public health official.

If a child or staff member starts to show symptoms of illness, the Chief Public Health Office (902-368-4996) is to be notified immediately.

General information regarding COVID-19 is available on the following Government of PEI website <https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/topic/covid-19>.

Required Public Health Measures:

- 1) The maximum capacity permitted to congregate in any one room shall not exceed 5 people (staff and children). If siblings are present, they are to be in the same group of 5 children. Infants, as well as immune-compromised children and staff, are not permitted in these centres. The licensing requirement for child/staff ratios must be maintained at all times. The room size must accommodate social distancing of 2 metres (6 feet) for everyone in the space.
- 2) Any child, employee or parent experiencing symptoms of illness is not permitted to enter these centres. Symptoms to look for include, but are not limited to, fever, cough, shortness of breath, sore throat, runny nose, nasal congestion, headache, and a general feeling of being unwell.
 - If a child develops symptoms while at the facility, the child is to be isolated in a separate room or area where the required social distancing of 2 metres (6feet) from other children can be maintained. The parent is to be notified to pick up the child immediately.
 - If the child requires close contact and care, staff members can continue to care for the child until the parent arrives. Staff members should be mindful of handwashing and avoid contact with the respiratory secretions of the child.
 - All items, bedding, toys etc. used by the child that day must be removed from the play area and sanitized, or sanitized in place.

- The centre is to have an ear thermometer as well as disposable thermometer probe covers that must be changed between each child.
- 3) Arrival and departure of children from these centres must be coordinated or scheduled to ensure social distancing of 2 metres (6feet) can be achieved so as to reduce the potential for close contact between children and/or parents.
 - 4) Parents must be reminded, through visible signage (posters) at the centre and when children are first registered for the centre, to check children's temperatures daily before coming to the centre. 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: 35.8-38.0°C (96.4-100.4°F)

Active symptoms screening will occur every morning using the attached tool (Appendix A). Child care staff must review the tool with the parent each morning when children are dropped off.

- 5) These centres must adhere to the following handwashing guidelines.
 1. Rinse visible dirt from hands with warm water
 2. Lather hands with liquid soap and warm water; rub vigorously for at least 20 seconds. Pay particular attention to under nails, between fingers, tops of hands and wrists.
 3. Rinse with running water.
 4. Dry with a single use paper towel in a dispenser, air dryer, or hand towel (single use before laundered).
- 6) It is essential that staff and children properly wash their hands:
 - At the start of the day and before going home;
 - After using the washroom;
 - After assisting a child who has used the washroom;
 - After a diaper change;
 - Before preparing and/or serving food;
 - Before eating;
 - Before and after feeding a child;
 - After getting hands dirty;
 - After wiping or blowing your nose or a child's nose;
 - After sneezing or coughing into your hands;
 - Before giving medication to a child;
 - After caring for a sick child;
 - After cleaning (specific to staff members); and
 - After any other activity which may contaminate hands.

Child care staff members should help young children to ensure handwashing is done correctly. Alcohol-based hand rub (ABHR) is not recommended for routine use in child care.

- 7) Parents are to provide meals and snacks for their child. Each child's food must be labelled and stored in a manner to prevent cross-contamination. If snacks are provided, they must be prepackaged. There should be no common food or beverage items (e.g. shared snack bowl or pitcher of water). Utensils should be used to serve food items (not fingers). Child care staff are expected to follow this same food policy.
- 8) Meal time(s) must be coordinated to ensure no more than 5 people (children and staff) congregate in the room where children consume their meal(s).
- 9) Surfaces (i.e. floor, tables, toys, etc.) in these centres must be smooth, non-absorbent, durable and easily cleanable. Centres must engage in frequent thorough cleaning and sanitizing each day. These centres shall follow standards regarding cleaning and sanitizing and follow the routine cleaning, sanitizing and disinfecting procedures outlined in the sanitation plan developed by the centre. Appendix B outlines how to clean and sanitize and Appendix C outlines the enhanced cleaning procedures during an outbreak of gastrointestinal and other illnesses.
- 10) Group sensory bins are not permitted at these centres. Individual sensory bins will be acceptable, if designated for one child, and are cleaned and sanitized immediately after use.
- 11) Naps are to occur in the same room that the child is assigned to. The sleeping mats and bedding are to be stored in this room also. All bedding is to be laundered daily, and sleeping mats are to be sanitized after each use.
- 12) The children at these centres are allowed to have outdoor play time as long as the following precautions are followed:
 - A schedule is developed and followed to ensure that only one group is using the outdoor space at one time.
 - Children are not to have access to the outdoor play equipment.
 - Toys can be taken outside, if each child is designated with one toy or toys and the toy(s) can be adequately cleaned and sanitized.
- 13) Non-essential visitors and volunteers cannot be permitted entry into the centre. Screened parents and guardians may enter the centre.
- 14) As part of routine measures for the respiratory illness season, signs reminding staff and children to practice good handwashing and respiratory etiquette (eg. sneeze/cough into elbow) should be visible in these centres. Signs must be posted reminding people not to enter these centres if they are feeling unwell.
- 15) Where possible, social distancing practices should occur, for example, avoiding close greetings like hugs or handshakes. The social distancing requirement also applies to staff members.
- 16) The maximum occupancy of any centre must not exceed 20 people (including staff and children), while adhering to all public health measures noted above.

Appendix A

Screening Questionnaire

THIS QUESTIONNAIRE IS TO BE COMPLETED **DAILY** FOR ALL INDIVIDUALS (Staff, Parents and Children) ENTERING THE CENTRE.

Risk Assessment: Initial Screening Questions:

1. Do you, or your child(ren) attending the centre, 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
	• 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 PEI in the last 14 days?	YES	NO
3.	Have you or your child(ren) attending the centre had close contact (face-to-face contact within 2 metres (6 feet) with someone who is ill with any of the above noted symptoms?	YES	NO
4.	Have you or anyone in your household been in contact in the last 14 days with a person under investigation or confirmed to be a case of COVID-19?	YES	NO

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 of 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, thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

Parent or Guardian: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Staff Member: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Appendix B

How to Clean and Sanitize

There are four steps to properly clean and sanitize an object or surface:

- 1) Wash: Remove all visible dirt with warm soap and water.
- 2) Rinse: Rinse to remove any dirt and soap on the object.
- 3) Sanitize: Either soak smaller items or wipe larger items/surfaces with an approved sanitizer. The sanitizer must remain on the item/surface for approximately 2 minutes to allow it destroy any harmful microbes present.
- 4) Dry: Items should be air dried only. This is to avoid possible recontamination from using a reusable towel and to increase the contact time for the sanitizer. If an item cannot be air dried, then use a clean single use paper towel.

Mixing a Sanitizer

Area to Sanitize	Dilution (Mixture of Sanitizer)	
	Household Bleach	Quaternary Ammonia
Kitchen, food contact surfaces & toys	100ppm	200ppm
Washrooms, diaper change areas, cribs/cots/mats & furniture	200ppm	400ppm
Surfaces contaminated with blood or bodily fluids	1:10 solution	1:10 solution

- Use potable water.
- Always pour the chemical into the water.
- Do not use clear bottles for bleach solutions as the sunlight will weaken the strength quickly.
- Always use the appropriate test strips to verify the concentration of sanitizer.
- Label all containers.
- Prepare sanitizer as often as necessary to ensure the sanitizer is available at the appropriate strength.
- Store solutions in an area not accessible to children.

Appendix C

Enhanced Cleaning During an Outbreak

High touch surfaces are most likely to be contaminated and are to be cleaned and sanitized daily or when visibly soiled.

Examples of high touch surfaces are:

- table tops;
- light switches;
- telephones (including personal cell phones);
- door knobs;
- sink taps;
- toilet handles;
- kitchen counter tops;
- gates;
- hand rails;
- hand sanitizer bottles/dispensers;
- toys;
- sleep cots/mats & cribs;

A two-step cleaning and sanitizing process is to be used.

- CLEAN – wipe surfaces to remove visible dirt
- SANITIZE – wipe surfaces again with a cloth saturated with sanitizer.

Due to the increased amount of cleaning required during an outbreak situation, it is best practice for a centre to decrease the number of toys available to the children.