

Enhanced Health and Safety Protocols in Child Care Settings January 20, 2021

Enhanced health and safety protocols will be reflected in updated operation guidance documents for child care and for before- and after school programs which will be posted on the Ministry of Education website shortly. The enhanced health and safety protocols include:

- Updated guidance on masking:
 - Effective immediately, non-medical mask or face covering is mandatory for all children in grades 1 and up while inside a child care setting, including in hallways; all younger children (aged 2 to SK) are encouraged but not required to wear a non-medical mask or face covering while inside a child care setting, including in hallways.
 - All child care staff are required to wear medical masks outdoors when a distance of 2 metres cannot be maintained.
 - All children in grades 1 and above are required to wear a non-medical mask or face covering outdoors when a distance of 2 metres cannot be maintained. All younger children (aged 2 to SK) are also encouraged to do this, but it is not required.
- Additional guidance on screening:
 - Effective January 25, licensees and before and after school providers are to validate daily self-screening for all child care centre staff, visitors and students completing post-secondary placements.
 - At a minimum these individuals will provide daily confirmation or proof that they have completed and passed the online screener in a form deemed appropriate (and accessible) by the licensee prior to or upon entry to the child care centre or home.
 - Parents and guardians continue to be responsible for screening their children for symptoms of illness every day.
- Revised guidance on staff/provider training:
 - Updated training should be offered such that all child care staff/providers receive training on current health and safety measures in place according to the Operational Guidance as well as those put in place by the local Public Health Unit.

- Additional clause under access to child care:
 - There may be families served through the Emergency Child Care for school-aged children program that were not accessing service prior to the closure; these families will no longer be eligible for their current space upon the conclusion of the Emergency Child Care program. Service system managers and licensees should work together to support families to transition to the service level, program location, and payment structure that best suits their needs upon the re-opening of school aged programs and in-person schooling.