

Discovery Child Care COVID-19 Response Plan

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PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to outline the preventive and response measures that will be implemented during Discovery's re-opening and recovery with health and safety measures and response to protect children and staff from and minimizing the impact of infection and illness.

All staff and families (current and new) will be given a copy of this policy to read, acknowledge and confirm that they have read by email. Parents will also be given a physical copy on their first day during the initial screening. All Staff will receive training prior to reopening and accepting children into care and anytime this policy is updated.

MAXIMUM GROUP SIZE/RATIO/STAFFING

Child care settings are permitted to operate using maximum group sizes as set out under the CCEYA (i.e., licensed age groups prior to the COVID-19 outbreak). Staff and students on educational placement are not included in the maximum group size.

- Movement of supervisors and/or designates, staff and students on educational placement between child care locations and between licensed age groups is permitted for coverage purposes only. Reducing the movement of staff and placement students where possible is encouraged to minimize potential for transmission.
- Movement of staff, supervisors and students will be restricted when a centre is under enhanced surveillance or in a confirmed outbreak
- Field placement students are permitted,
- Ratios will be maintained as set out under the CCEYA
- One teacher from the child's group will be assigned to meet them at the entry and escort them to their assigned room. Walkie-talkies will be used.
- Cohorts are now permitted to mix outside & inside at the last hour of the day (4:30-5:30) The health unit permits 2 classrooms to mix. We will mix toddler & preschool classes when needed at the end of day.
- Food handlers will not be providing care to children, even for breaks/lunches.
- Each group will have the required number of qualified staff as set out in the CCEYA
- Staff must also maintain physical distancing in staff rooms, offices etc.

Hours of Operation:

7:30 am to 5:30 pm Monday to Friday

Visitors/parents/guardians in the building.

Simcoe Muskoka Health Unit is not allowing visitors & parents inside the building. Families will be required to remain outside the centre for drop off and pick up of their children.

Drop off and Pick up: Mask is required for all adults (covering nose & mouth)

Drop off A screener will be available between 7:30am-9am with physical distancing markings to identify the 2 metres between persons waiting.

- Please be prepared for a delay in drop off daily as all children need to be screened properly before being admitted to the centre.
- Please ensure that you are supervising your child while waiting and that they are not mixing with other children. Ensure that you & your children maintain the 2 metre distance between families.
- Ensure that your child is dressed and ready for outdoor play based on the weather if dropping off after 9am.:
- Please take your child's temperature prior to drop off and complete the online screening tool daily.
- If you want to drop off after 9am, please call the centre so we know to meet you at the screening point.
- **All children need to be dropped off by 11am each day. Children will not be accepted into care after 11am.**
Children in the toddler and preschool rooms cannot be picked up between 12pm-2:30pm as it is very disruptive to their sleep time and we are at reduced staffing at that time, making it difficult for us to get your child for you.

Pick up: Please come to the screening area to pick up your child. **Please be prepared to show photo I.D.** We will bring your child out to you at the end of the day. Ensure that you maintain the 2 metre distance between families. Please remember to turn your car off while you are waiting. We do not allow idling in the parking lot. We are also a smoke free environment and no smoking is allowed even while in your car. Thank you.

Visitors/Parents/Guardians will be allowed into the building by appointment only.

Active Screening Procedures

All individuals including children attending the centre, staff, and essential visitors (i.e. Ministry staff) will be screened by Discovery staff **before** entering the child care setting, including daily temperature checks. Contact information such as date/time of visit, name, and phone number are required for all essential visitors. A designated screener will be set up outside of the child care centre.

The following must be followed daily PRIOR to arrival at the centre:

- The designated screener will be wearing PPE (mask & face shield) if physical distancing is not possible.
- Daily screening will be done electronically (via online form available on our website) prior to arrival at the centre. Link can be found here: <https://form.jotform.com/220063076147247>
- Staff and parents/guardians will need to check their own or children's temperature daily before coming to the child care setting to ensure you are not arriving at the centre with a temperature.
- Screening questions will be completed daily for all staff & children (Including if any fever-reducing medication has been administered within the past 24 hours)
- Pick-up and drop-off of children will happen outside the child care setting. Designated teachers from the child's classroom will bring the child to and from their room. Parents/guardians will need to let us know what regular drop off and pick up times will be.
- Children/staff/visitors will be directed to clean their hands upon entry into the centre and/or room

Entry will be denied to any person who has:

- Fever and/or chills (temperature of 37.8C/100F or higher)
- New or worsening cough, barking cough,(croup)
- shortness of breath
- Decrease of loss of taste or smell
- Nausea/vomiting and/or diarrhea
- Sore throat or difficulty swallowing
- Runny or stuffy/congested nose
- Headache
- Muscle Aches or joint pain
- Extreme tiredness that is unusual (fatigue, lack of energy)
- Been given fever reducing medication in the last 24 hours for any reason (Tylenol, Advil, Belladonna, Motrin etc) as this can mask Covid-19 symptoms

From the Ministry of Health Provincial Screening Tool (Jan 6/22)

Students and children must screen for COVID-19 every day before going to school or child care. Parent(s)/guardian(s) can fill this out on behalf of a child.

Screening questions

1. In the last [5, 10] days has the student/child experienced any of these symptoms?

- If the student/child is fully vaccinated OR 11 years old or younger, use 5 days
- If the student/child is 12 years of age or older and not fully vaccinated OR if they are immunocompromised, use 10 days

Anyone who is sick or has any new or worsening symptoms of illness, including those not listed below, should stay home until their symptoms are improving for 24 hours and should seek assessment from their health care provider if needed. Household members of individuals with any of the below symptoms should stay home at the same time as the person who is sick, regardless of vaccination status.

If the student/child is symptomatic and has tested negative for COVID-19 on a single PCR test or two rapid antigen tests (RAT) taken 48 hours apart, and symptoms have been improving for 24 hours, you may answer “no” to all symptoms.

Choose any/all that are new, worsening, and not related to other known causes or conditions they already have.

- Fever and/or chills (Temperature of 37.8 degrees Celsius/100 degrees Fahrenheit or higher and/or chills)
- Cough or barking cough (croup) (Continuous, more than usual, making a whistling noise when breathing)
- Shortness of breath (Out of breath, unable to breathe deeply)
- Decrease or loss of taste or smell

2. In the last [5, 10] days has the student/child experienced any of these symptoms?

- If the student/child is fully vaccinated OR 11 years old or younger, use 5 days
- If the student/child is 12 years of age or older and not fully vaccinated OR if they are immune compromised, use 10 days

Choose any/all that are new, worsening, and not related to other known causes or conditions they already have.

- Sore throat or difficulty swallowing Painful swallowing
- Runny or stuffy/congested nose Not related to seasonal allergies, being outside in cold weather
- Headache Unusual, long-lasting (If the student/child received a COVID-19 and/or flu vaccination in the last 48 hours and is experiencing a mild headache that only began after vaccination, select “No.”)
- Extreme tiredness Unusual, fatigue, lack of energy, poor feeding in infants (If the student/child received a COVID-19 and/or flu vaccination in the last 48 hours and is experiencing mild fatigue and/or mild muscle aches/joint pain that only began after vaccination, select “No.”)
- No Muscle aches or joint pain (If the student/child received a COVID-19 and/or flu vaccination in the last 48 hours and is experiencing mild fatigue and/or mild muscle aches/joint pain that only began after vaccination, select “No.”)
- Nausea, vomiting and/or diarrhea

3. In the last [5, 10] days has the student/child tested positive for COVID-19?

This includes a positive COVID-19 test result on a lab-based PCR test, rapid antigen test or home-based self-testing kit.

- If the student/child is fully vaccinated OR 11 years old or younger, use 5 days
- If the student/child is 12 years of age or older and not fully vaccinated OR if they are immune compromised, use 10 days.

4. Do any of the following apply?

- The student/child lives with someone who is currently isolating because of a positive COVID-19 test
 - The student/child lives with someone who is currently isolating because of COVID-19 symptoms
 - The student/child lives with someone who is currently isolating while waiting for COVID-19 test results
- If the individual isolating has not tested positive for COVID-19 and only has one of these symptoms: sore throat or difficulty swallowing, runny or stuffy/congested nose, headache, extreme tiredness, muscle aches or joint pain, nausea, vomiting and/or diarrhea, select “No

5. Has the student/child been identified as a “close contact” of someone who currently has COVID-19 and been advised to self-isolate?

If public health guidance provided to you has advised you that you do not need to self-isolate, select “No.”

6. Has a doctor, health care provider, or public health unit told you that the student/child should currently be isolating (staying at home)? This can be because of an outbreak or contact tracing.

7. Do any of the following apply?

- In the last 14 days, the student/child travelled outside of Canada and was told to quarantine
- In the last 14 days, the student/child travelled outside of Canada and was told to not attend school/child care
- In the last 14 days, someone the student/child lives with has returned from travelling outside of Canada and is isolating while awaiting results of a COVID-19 test. Please note that if the child/student is not fully vaccinated but is exempt from federal quarantine because they travelled with a vaccinated companion, they must not attend school or child care for 14 days.

Results of screening questions

If you answered “YES” to ANY question, your child cannot go to school or child care. Contact your school/child care provider to let them know that your child will not be attending school today. See below for isolation and testing requirements

NOTE: When the option of [5, 10] days is listed:

- If the student/child is fully vaccinated OR 11 years old or younger, use 5 days
- If the student/child is 12 years old or older AND is not fully vaccinated OR is immune compromised, use 10 days

If you answered “YES” to any of the symptoms listed under question 1, do not go to school or child care.

- The student/child must isolate (stay home) and not leave except to get tested or for a medical emergency.
- If the student/child is not tested, and if:
 - The student/child is fully vaccinated OR 11 years old or younger they must isolate for 5 days from the day after symptoms started and stay in isolation until their symptoms have been improving for 24 hours (or 48 hours after nausea, vomiting and/or diarrhea symptoms), whichever is longest.
 - The student/child is 12 years old or older and not fully vaccinated OR is immune compromised they must isolate for 10 days from the day after symptoms started and stay in isolation until their symptoms have been improving for 24 hours (or 48 hours after nausea, vomiting and/or diarrhea symptoms), whichever is longest.
- If testing is available:
 - If a single PCR test or rapid antigen test (RAT) is positive, the student/child should follow the guidance above “if the student/child is not tested”
 - If a single PCR test is negative or two rapid antigen tests (RATs) collected 48 hours apart are both negative, the student/child may return to school/child care when their symptom(s) have been improving for 24 hours (48 hours for nausea, vomiting and/or diarrhea).
- Household members, including siblings, must stay home at the same time as the student/child, whether they are fully vaccinated or not.

If you answered “YES” to any of the symptoms listed under question 2, do not go to school or child care.

- If the student/child has experienced **only one** of these symptoms in the last [5, 10] days the student/child must stay home the day following the onset of symptoms and then until the symptom has been improving for at least 24 hours (48 hours for nausea, vomiting and/or diarrhea).
- If the student/child has experienced **two** or more of these symptoms in the last [5, 10] days the student/child must stay home.
 - If the student/child is not tested and:
 - The student/child is fully vaccinated OR 11 years old or younger they must isolate for 5 days from the day after when symptoms started and stay in isolation until their symptoms have been improving for 24 hours (48 hours for nausea, vomiting and/or diarrhea), whichever is longest.
 - The student/child is 12 years old or older and not fully vaccinated OR is immune compromised they must isolate for 10 days from the day after the symptoms started and stay in isolation until their symptoms have been improving for 24 hours (48 hours for nausea, vomiting and/or diarrhea), whichever is longest.
 - If testing is available:
 - If a single PCR test or a rapid antigen test is positive, the student/child should follow the guidance above, “if the student/child is not tested”
 - If a single PCR test or two rapid antigen tests (RATs) collected 48 hours apart are both negative, the student/child may return to school/child care when their symptoms have been improving for at least 24 hours (48 hours for nausea, vomiting and/or diarrhea).
 - Household members, including siblings, must stay home at the same time as the student/child, whether they are fully vaccinated or not.

NOTE: If the student/child also answered “YES” to question 1, follow question 1 guidance for next steps, including testing, if available.

If you answered “YES” to question 3, do not go to school or child care

- The student/child must isolate (stay home) and only leave for a medical emergency.
- If the student/child is fully vaccinated OR 11 years old or younger they must isolate for 5 days from the day after symptoms started or from when they tested positive for COVID-19 (whichever was first) and stay in isolation until their symptoms have been improving for 24 hours (or 48 hours after nausea, vomiting and/or diarrhea symptoms), whichever is longest.
- If the student/child is 12 years old or older and not fully vaccinated OR is immune compromised they must isolate for 10 days from the day after the symptoms started or from when they tested positive for COVID-19 (whichever was first) and stay in isolation until their symptoms have been improving for 24 hours (or 48 hours after nausea, vomiting and/or diarrhea symptoms), whichever is longest.
- Household members, including siblings, must stay home at the same time as the student/child, whether they are fully vaccinated or not.

If you answered “YES” to question 4, do not go to school or child care.

- The student/child must isolate (stay home) while there is anyone in the home who is isolating because of symptoms, a positive COVID-19 result or is waiting for a COVID-19 test result. The student/child should only leave home for a medical emergency.
- All household members must stay home at the same time as the household member who has COVID-19 symptoms or is a positive COVID-19 case, whether they are fully vaccinated or not.

If you answered “YES” to question 5 or 6, do not go to school or child care.

- The student/child must isolate (stay home) and not leave except to get tested or for a medical emergency.
- If the student/child develops symptoms, follow isolation guidance found under results to “**If you answered**

“YES” to any of the symptoms listed under question 1 do not go to school or child care.” and/or “If you answered “YES” to any of the symptoms listed under question 2, do not go to school or child care” depending on the symptoms the student/child is experiencing.

- If the student/child is isolating because they were identified as a close contact of someone who currently has COVID-19 and advised to isolate, or because of an outbreak or contact tracing, siblings or other people in the household can go to school, child care or work, but must not leave the home for other, non-essential reasons.

If you answered “YES” to question 7, do not go to school or child care.

- The student/child must follow federal guidelines for individuals who have travelled internationally, including not going to school/child care for 14 days after their arrival and getting tested as per federal requirements.
- If the student/child has been directed to quarantine, they must stay home for 14 days and not leave except to get tested or for a medical emergency. For more information on federal requirements for travellers, please see the Government of Canada’s website.
- If someone the student/child lives with is isolating following return from travelling outside of Canada and received a take-home PCR test at the airport, is symptomatic following international travel OR is awaiting test results, the student must stay home until the individual has received a negative PCR test result.
- If the student/child develops symptoms, follow isolation guidance found under results to “If you answered “YES” to any of the symptoms listed under question 1 do not go to school or child care.” and/or “If you answered “YES” to any of the symptoms listed under question 2, do not go to school or child care” depending on the symptoms the student/child is experiencing.

If you answered “NO” to all questions, your child may go to school/child care. Follow your school/child care provider’s established process for letting staff know about this result.

- As per regular protocols, all sick individuals with any symptoms of illness should stay home and seek assessment from their regular health care provider if required.
- Individuals with severe symptoms requiring emergency care should go to their nearest emergency department.
- If an individual develops symptoms outside of the list above, the local public health unit may recommend other measures, including testing based on an assessment of the individual’s symptoms and exposure history.

Immunization Considerations:

-Staff, students, visitors, or older children who are fully vaccinated may be directed by the provincial screening tools to stay home if someone in their household has symptoms.

-Fully vaccinated means that the individual has received all doses in their COVID-19 vaccine series (i.e., both doses of a two-dose vaccine series, or one dose of a single-dose vaccine series) and more than 14 days have passed since receiving their last dose.

-Operators need to be aware that individuals who recently received a COVID-19 vaccination may have mild symptoms that do not require exclusion. Children and staff/visitors can go to child care but must wear a mask if they received a COVID-19 vaccine in the previous 48 hours and are experiencing any or all of the following symptoms that are mild and only began after vaccination: headache, fatigue (extreme tiredness), muscle aches, joint pain

-Any other symptoms, including fever, that develop within 48 hours of a COVID-19 vaccine will require the individual to be excluded from the setting.

-If symptoms developed before the vaccine was given or if symptoms continue longer than 48 hours after vaccine was given the individual must also be excluded.

Management of Ill Children: Specific guidance for staff/children/visitors experiencing symptoms: **All children/staff & essential visitors who have any of the above noted symptoms persisting for more than a few hours, and for whom the symptom(s) is new and not related to seasonal allergies or pre-existing medical conditions, must stay home from the centre. Any rostered siblings of children who are ill are also required to be excluded until test results are known.**

Staff/families must complete the “Attestation Form to Return to Child Care” prior to returning to the centre after any illness. The link can be found on our website and here: <https://form.jotform.com/203005564522041>

Communication with Staff and Parents/Guardians

- ❑ Parents/guardians will be made aware of the facilities COVID-19 Plan and the importance of adhering to self- monitoring of COVID-19 symptoms including temperature taking and hand hygiene prior to bringing their child to centre.
- ❑ COVID-19 specific information will be available to staff and parents/guardians upon request (e.g., COVID-19 fact sheets, hand hygiene, physical distancing, self-monitoring).
- ❑ Updated training will be offered to all staff on current health & safety measures in place according to the Operational Guidance as well as those in place by the local Public Health Unit.
- ❑ A copy of this Guidance Document can be found on our website: <https://www.discoverychild.on.ca/our-families/covid-response-plan/>

Isolation of Ill Children

Children and staff who start to show symptoms of COVID-19 will be promptly separated from others, into a designated room if possible, while waiting to be picked up by a parent or guardian. All siblings of an ill child or children of an ill staff member will also be sent home immediately.

- ❑ Provide the sick child with a surgical/procedural mask if tolerable and above the age of 2.
- ❑ Where possible, anyone who is providing care to the child should maintain a distance of 2 metres.
- ❑ If appropriate PPE is not worn, staff providing direct care for the ill child may need to be off for 5 days.
- ❑ Hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette should be practiced while the child is waiting to be picked up.
- ❑ Thermometers must not be used between children/staff without single-use protective covers or disinfection between uses.
- ❑ Once the child and siblings (if applicable) has been picked up, clean and disinfect the isolation room/area.

Testing Recommendations for Parents/Guardians

- ❑ Parents/Guardians should follow the testing recommendations as per the Ontario school self-assessment tool or SMDHU resource.
- ❑ Parents/guardians can use a rapid antigen test if their child has symptoms. The first test can be done on the first day of symptoms. If the first test is negative, a second test must be done 48 hours after the first. **Write your child's name and date on each test and then email a photo of the test to karen@discoverychild.on.ca**
- ❑ If parents/guardians choose not to test their child, there is a 5 day exclusion requirement from onset of symptoms. All family members must self isolate too.
- ❑ The child may return to care if an alternative diagnosis has been made by the health care provider, once a negative pcr test or 2 RAT are received done 48 hours apart, no fever and the child symptoms have been improving for 1 full day with no medication (if applicable)

Reporting:

- ❑ Given the widespread transmission of the Omicron variant and changes to the provincial testing approach, child care operators will no longer be routinely notifying families of positive cases or if an individual is absent due to symptoms associated with COVID-19.
- ❑ If absenteeism rises to a defined level in a child care program (approximately 30% above baseline), licensees are expected to send a template notification to families and staff/providers in the affected child care setting, signed by the local medical officer of health, with information on public health measures for families and staff/providers to follow (e.g., monitoring of COVID-19 symptoms). Licensees are encouraged to reach out to their local PHU in this scenario to get access to the required template.

ROUTINE PRACTICES

Encouraging hand hygiene

Hand washing with soap and water is still the single most effective way to reduce the spread of illness.

- ❑ All staff are responsible to ensure their classrooms are well-stocked with hand washing supplies at all times (i.e., soap, paper towels and, if needed, 60% alcohol-based hand sanitizer). Staff are to let the office know when we begin to run low on supplies (Do NOT wait until we have run out!)
- ❑ Children forget about proper hand washing so practice often and teach them to wash their hands properly in a fun and relaxed way. Signage should be available to demonstrate the steps of hand hygiene. Monitor them to ensure that they are washing thoroughly.
- ❑ When sinks for hand washing are not available, you may use alcohol-based hand rubs (ABHR) containing at least 60% alcohol. Know that this is not very effective when a child's hands are quite soiled. Ensure to keep ABHR out of the reach of children.
- ❑ **Children & staff must wash their hands for at least 20 seconds with soap & warm water:** before & after meals and snacks, after using the washroom, after diaper changes (children too), before and after any sensory play, after handing garbage, when hands are obviously soiled and when returning from outside.

Respiratory etiquette

Respiratory etiquette in child care settings includes covering the mouth and nose during coughing or sneezing with a tissue or a flexed elbow, and disposing of used tissues in a plastic-lined waste container, followed by hand hygiene. This should be reviewed with all children and staff regularly. Signage should be posted to remind children and staff.

Use of Masks & Personal Protective Equipment

- ❑ All adults in the child care centre are required to wear medical masks or non-fit-tested N95 masks and eye protection (i.e. face shield or goggles) while inside and outside the child care premises, including hallways.
- ❑ Replacing a non-fit-tested N95 mask is driven by factors including but not limited to:
 - ❑ When it is no longer tolerated or accepted
 - ❑ When the filtering part of the mask is wet
 - ❑ When the mask has lost some of its integrity: relaxed elastic, damaged filtering part; and
 - ❑ When there were potentially infectious droplets splashing onto the mask
 - ❑ Please be advised that to further protect the longevity of the non-fit-tested N95 masks, these masks should be restricted to indoor use. Staff/providers should switch to a medical/surgical mask while outside.
 - ❑ While staff/providers are to be allocated one non-fit-tested N95/day, to the extent there may be occasional damage, licensees will be provided with a small margin for spoilage
 - ❑ Staff must wash their hands before putting on the mask and before and after removing the mask.
 - ❑ Non-fit-tested N95 masks must be stored in a plastic bag when not in use.
- ❑ All children in our preschool and kindergarten programs are required to wear a disposable or cloth mask while inside in the child care premises, including hallways. All younger children are not required to wear a non-medical

mask or face covering while inside a child care setting including hallways.

- Parents/guardians are responsible for providing their child(ren) with a non-medical mask(s) each day and should be reminded that if children are wearing masks, they will require a way to store their mask when not in use..
- Medical masks & eye protection are required outdoors.
- Reasonable exceptions to the requirement to wear masks are expected to be put in place by licensees. Exceptions to wearing masks indoors could include circumstances where a physical distance of at least 2 metres can be maintained between individuals, situations where a child cannot tolerate wearing a mask, reasonable exceptions for medical conditions etc. Requirements and exceptions related to masks will be documented.
- Masks are not recommended for children under the age of two.
- When wearing a medical mask, staff must wash their hands before putting on the mask and before and after removing the mask. Masks must be changed if punctured, damaged or become moist. Refer to Public Health Ontario Resources for how to properly wear and take off masks and eye protection:
<https://www.publichealthontario.ca/-/media/documents/ncov/ipac/ppe-recommended-steps>

ENVIRONMENTAL CLEANING & DISINFECTION

The risk associated with transmission with shared objects is low. Instead of regular cleaning of shared objects, the focus should be on regular hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette to reduce the risk of infection related to shared equipment. This is especially the case for young children where shared equipment is important for learning (for example, toys for imaginative play, manipulatives for math).

- All toys/equipment will be cleaned and sanitized daily as per Discovery policy 07 05 Sanitary Practices
- Frequently touched surfaces including door knobs, light switches, toilet handles, glass on doors and tabletops, must be disinfected at least twice a day.
- Mouthed toys must be cleaned and disinfected immediately as per normal processes.
- We use Virox sanitizer/disinfectant on all surfaces and toys.
- Cots and cribs should be disinfected weekly. Linens must be laundered weekly. Children's blankets will be sent home on Fridays for families to wash. Please ensure they are returned on Monday morning.
- Clean high-touch electronic devices (i.e., keyboards, tablets, and smartboards) with 70% alcohol (i.e., alcohol prep wipes) making sure your wipe has a contact time of at least 1 minute.

Programming

- There will be designated toys and equipment for each group of children.
- Staff will provide enough materials to encourage individual play.
- Sensory materials (e.g. playdough, water, sand etc.) are not permitted.
- Offer toys that can be easily cleaned (i.e., no dress-up clothes or stuffed animals).
- A planned program must happen every day. The majority of our day will be spent outside as per Discovery Program Statement.
- Outdoor area will have materials & equipment that are easy to clean & disinfect. Each group will have their own outdoor bins to use.

Space Set-Up & PHYSICAL DISTANCING

- Understandably, physical distancing is challenging in a child care setting.
- Each group of children must have their own assigned indoor space, separated from all other groups by a physical barrier. Cohorts are only permitted to be mixed outdoors.

- When in the same common space (e.g. entrances, hallways) physical distancing of at least 2 metres must be maintained between different groups and should be encourage where possible between children within the same group by:
 - Spreading children out into different areas, particularly at meal and dressing time
 - Incorporating more individual activities or activities that encourage more space between children; and
 - Using visual cues to promote physical distancing

- In shared outdoor space, a distance of at least 2 metres must be maintained between groups and any other individuals outside of the group at all times.

- Increase the distance between cots, if possible. If space is tight, place children head-to-toe or toe-to-toe.

- Avoid close greetings like hugs or handshakes.

- Help children to learn about distancing by creating games. For example, put on some music and have children spread their arms side to side and spin around slowly trying not to touch their friends.

- Set up regular activities outside such as snack time, planned program experiences, etc..

- Set up mini environments within your facility to reduce the number of children in a group, for example set up 2 or 3 craft areas for different learning experiences..

- Increase the space between children during activities such as snack and lunch by moving or separating tables and chairs so they are farther apart.

- Recognizing that physical distancing is difficult with small children and infants, additional suggestions include
 - Planning activities that do not involve shared objects or toys
 - When possible, moving activities outside to allow for more space; and
 - Avoiding singing activities indoors.

- Conversations with parents/guardians will take place over the phone or on Zoom rather than face to face if at all possible.

ITEMS FROM HOME

- Sippy cups, bottles and pacifiers should be brought from home, labelled and left at centre with the centre taking responsibility for cleaning and disinfection.

- No books or toys from home are allowed into the centre at this time.

- Children must not share soothers, bottles, sippy cups, toothbrushes, facecloths, etc.

FOOD SERVICE

- Discovery will maintain compliance with [Ontario Regulation 493/17 Food Premises](#).
- Reinforce “no food or drink sharing” with children.
- Meals should be served in individual portions to the children. Teachers are responsible for serving the children. Utensils should be used to serve food.
- There should be no items shared (i.e. serving spoons or salt shaker)
- Children may not participate in food preparation or serving.
- Proper hand hygiene must be practiced when staff are preparing food and for all individuals before & after eating.
- Where possible, children should practice physical distancing while eating.

OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH & SAFETY

- Child care centres must have written measures and procedures for worker safety, including measures and procedures for infection prevention and control. Detailed guidelines for COVID-19 are available on the Ministry of Health COVID-19 website.
- If a child care worker has symptoms consistent with COVID-19, the child care worker should consider testing. Child care workers should report to the Director of Child Care prior to return to work.
- If the care provider’s illness is determined to be work-related: In accordance with the Occupational Health and Safety Act and its regulations, an employer must provide a written notice within four days of being advised that a worker has an occupational illness, including an occupationally-acquired infection to the:
 - Ministry of Labour;
 - Health and safety representative

SERIOUS OCCURRENCE REPORTING:

A Serious Occurrence must be reported in the Child Care Licensing System for

- Confirmed covid-19 cases where an individual has tested positive on a PCR Test, and
- Unplanned disruption of services for Public Health Ordered Closures and Voluntary Closures related to COVID-19 (Entire centre closure only, not individual classrooms)

Should additional individuals at the child care program develop a confirmed case, licensees must either:

- Revise the open serious occurrence report to include the additional cases; or,
- Submit a new serious occurrence report if the first has been closed already.

NOTICE OF RISK

When children from multiple families attend a single childcare centre, there is an increased risk of the COVID-19 virus coming into the centre. Children who are infected with the COVID-19 virus are more likely than adults to have very mild infections or to have no symptoms at all, but these children can still transmit the infection to other children and to adults in the centre. This means that children can bring home an infection acquired in the centre and put other persons at risk. This childcare centre has a screening process to help detect infections when there are symptoms; however, this screening process will not detect infected children or adults who do not have symptoms at the time of screening. The risk of serious COVID-19 infection increases with age.

Discovery Child Care Centre

Covid-19 Immunization Disclosure Policy

Sept 7/21

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to outline organizational expectations with regards to COVID-19 immunization disclosure.

Contingent upon vaccine availability, all employees of Discovery Child Care are required to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 as a condition of employment, unless there is a medical reason to not receive a vaccine. All volunteers, students on educational placement or other regular visitors (i.e. RC's) are strongly encouraged to receive a COVID-19 Vaccine, unless there is a medical reason to not receive a vaccine.

Background

Discovery Child Care Centre recognizes the importance of immunization of individuals regularly interacting and providing services to children due to the nature of their work and potential for exposure in the community. This COVID-19 immunization policy aims to protect the child care program's population including children, staff, volunteers, students on educational placements and any person providing child care or other services to a child in care.

COVID-19 is an acute respiratory illness caused by the severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2). It may be characterized by fever, cough, shortness of breath, and several other symptoms. Asymptomatic infection is also possible. The risk of severe disease increases with age but is not limited to the elderly and is elevated in those with underlying medical conditions.

Application of the Policy

The Immunization Disclosure Policy will apply to the following groups of individuals, except where the individual works remotely and the individual's work does not involve in-person interactions:

- Employees of the licensee;
- Volunteers;
- Students on an educational placement;
- Any licensee who regularly interacts with children, staff or providers;
- Any person who provides child care or other services to a child who receives child care (e.g., special needs resourcing consultant)

Policy

The Chief Medical Officer of Health has directed all licensed child care programs to develop, implement and ensure compliance with a COVID-19 immunization disclosure policy. All individuals covered by this policy must provide one of the following:

1. Proof of all required doses of a COVID-19 vaccine approved by the World Health Organization.
2. Written proof of a medical reason, provided by either a physician or nurse practitioner that sets out:
 - a. that the person cannot be vaccinated against COVID-19; and
 - b. the effective time period for the medical reason (i.e., permanent or time- limited).
3. Proof that the individual has completed an educational session approved by Discovery.

Educational session

The educational session has been approved by and/or provided by Discovery Child Care Centre and addresses all of the following learning components:

- how COVID-19 vaccines work;
- vaccine safety related to the development of the COVID-19 vaccines;
- benefits of vaccination against COVID-19;
- risks of not being vaccinated against COVID-19; and
- possible side effects of COVID-19 vaccination.

Support for Vaccination

Discovery Child Care will provide the following supports for people subject to this policy to receive a vaccine: assistance with booking vaccine appointments or peer-to-peer support. Please let us know what you need.

Testing Requirements

Individuals subject to the policy who are not fully vaccinated must regularly complete an antigen point of care testing for COVID-19 and demonstrate a negative result, twice per week (Mondays & Thursdays); and provide written verification of the negative test result after each test.

Confidentiality Statement

As per s. 77 of O. Reg 137/15 made under the Child Care and Early Years Act, 2014, Discovery Child Care Centre is required to report such statistical information to the Ministry of Education as may be required. No identifying information will be provided to the ministry in relation to this policy; all statistical information will be provided in aggregate form.