

**Outings/Field Trips:** Field trips or outings are permitted, however, the participation of children must be entirely voluntary when accompanied by appropriate parental permission. Enhanced planning for outings and field trips will be necessary to ensure the health guidelines are met. Trips to spray pads and other local centres such as libraries and community centres are permitted, provided they follow the applicable guidelines, as well as requirements around social distancing and capacity. When planning outings/field trips, consider the following:

- Outdoor settings are lower risk for transmission of COVID-19.
- Avoid crowded venues where physical distancing of 6 feet (2 meters) cannot be maintained.
- Locations with high touch surfaces are higher risk for transmission of the virus (outdoor settings have lower risk for this).
- Ensure there is access to hand washing and/or alcohol-based hand sanitizer during the outing. Handwashing will be required if the activity involves getting the hands soiled.
- For group transportation, physical distancing needs to be maintained (i.e. one child per seat on a bus).
- Avoid using public water fountains. Children should bring their own prefilled water bottle to these activities.

**Activities with animals/pets:** Animals and pets are permitted as per child care regulations. Children and staff who handle animals should perform proper hand hygiene before and after handling animals. (see Hygiene Practices section above). Ensure animal handlers who are visiting the facility are screened following processes for visitors, and ensure physical distancing is possible between the animal handler visitor and the child. Medical or non-medical masks may be worn by the visitor as an additional precaution.

## Health Concerns and how to address them

### What happens if a child exhibits symptoms?

If a child develops symptoms while at the facility, the child should be isolated in a separate room. If a separate room is not available, the child needs to be kept at least two metres/ six feet away from other children and staff. If possible, a mask should be provided to and worn by the sick child (> 2 years of age only).

The parent should be notified to come and pick up the child immediately. Ask the parent or guardian to contact Health Links – Info Santé (204-788-8200 or 1-888-315-9257) or the child’s health care provider for direction, if required.

If the child is young and requires close contact and care while isolated, caregivers can continue to care for the child until the parent is able to pick-up the child. Caregivers should be mindful of hand hygiene and avoid contact with the respiratory secretions of the child. A medical mask should be worn by the staff person caring for the child.

Additional environmental cleaning should occur. Focus should be in high-touch areas and areas where the child spent time. All items (e.g., bedding and toys) used by the child while isolated, should be cleaned and disinfected as soon as the child has been picked up.

A sick child can return to the centre once it has been determined that it is safe to do so by their health care provider or public health. If that child has a positive test, further direction will be provided by a public health nurse. Public health typically follows up with contacts of cases within 24 to 48 hours. If there is no notification by public health within that time frame, you can assume no contacts within the centre have been identified or the sick child has been confirmed not to have COVID-19.

### What happens if a staff member exhibits symptoms?

Staff should use the [self-assessment tool](#) before attending work, and be directed to stay home if they are feeling unwell. If a staff member or volunteer in a child care facility becomes symptomatic, they should immediately isolate themselves from other staff and children, notify their supervisor and go home to isolate. They should then contact Health Links - Info Santé (204-788-8200 or 1-888-315-9257) or their health care provider for direction. Additional environmental cleaning should occur. Focus should be in high-touch areas and areas where the staff/volunteer spent time.

Staff members who are away sick, or self-isolating, must follow the facility's human resource policy on being away from work.

A sick staff member can return to work once it has been determined that it is safe to do so by their health care provider or public health. If that staff has a positive test, further direction will be provided by a public health nurse. Public health typically follows up with contacts of cases within 24 to 48 hours. If there is no notification by public health within that time frame, you can assume no contacts within the centre have been identified or the sick staff member has been confirmed not to have COVID-19.

### **Outbreak Management**

In the event that a case of COVID-19 is confirmed to be connected to a child care centre, public health will provide additional guidance including ensuring that appropriate supports are in place to coordinate the response. One (1) confirmed case of COVID-19 in a child care setting would be considered an outbreak.

Public health actions and directions may include, but are not limited to:

- contact tracing, which involves identifying contacts of a positive case and contacting those individuals,
- requesting records that identify cohorts/groups of staff and children in the child care setting for a specified time frame,
- testing of staff and children that may have been exposed to a positive case,
- enhancing environmental cleaning, and
- assessing need for facility closure.

Child care centres are expected to work with public health to ensure a prompt response to cases of COVID-19 that may have been exposed in or may have attended a child care centre.

### **Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)**

Children are not required to wear masks or other PPE in child care settings.

Staff should maintain current practices for the use of PPE with respect to the hazards normally encountered in their work, with the exception of wearing a medical mask (surgical/procedural mask) when unable to maintain a distance of two meters / six feet from a child who is exhibiting signs or symptoms suggestive of COVID-19. There is no role for the use of N95 respirators in this setting. Glove use is only required as per your regular practices and current policies.

To don (put on) the mask safely, perform hand hygiene by handwashing with soap and water or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer. Place the mask on your face carefully so it covers your mouth and nose, handling it with the strings/elastic ear loops as much as possible, and mold the nose bridge to ensure it does not move while on. Avoid touching the mask once you have put it on. If you need to adjust it, clean your hands before and after adjusting the mask. Never pull the mask down below your nose or mouth and chin. Never dangle the mask from one ear or both ears.

To remove the mask safely, remove the mask from behind using the strings/elastic ear loops; do not touch the front of the mask. Discard the mask immediately, ideally in a no touch receptacle. Perform hand hygiene by handwashing with soap and water or the use of alcohol based hand sanitizer. Visit <https://www.gov.mb.ca/covid19/prepareandprevent/index.html> for the latest guidance from on use and care of masks.

Also, visit the following Public Health Agency of Canada page to access a poster and guidelines for how to safely use a non-medical mask or face covering: <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/publications/diseases-conditions/covid-19-safely-use-non-medical-mask-face-covering.html>