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YCD CHILD CARE PANDEMIC RESPONSE PLAN SEPTEMBER 2021

BACKGROUND

- January 30, 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared a Public Health Emergency of International Concern.
- March 11, 2020, the WHO declared COVID-19 to be a global pandemic and a worldwide health concern to all of humanity.
- As a result, governing countries and their leaders around the world acted to mitigate the spread of this virus by restricting travel, testing, and quarantining symptomatic individuals, enforcing physical distancing, closing schools and non-essential businesses, and requesting residents to stay inside their homes.
- This document provides a framework to mitigate risk for staff, families, children, and community partners and provides general guidance on the prevention and management of COVID-19.
- Under Ontario law, employers have the duty to take every reasonable precaution to keep workers safe, informed and ensure the use of the appropriate protective equipment.
- York Region Public Health (YRPH), Ontario Ministry of Health, Health Canada, and the WHO provide resources, information, and guidance with respect to COVID-19.

PLANNING PRIORITIES FOR REOPENING DURING RECOVERY PERIOD

All YCD Programs:

- Will comply with updated policies, the Child Care and Early Years Act (CCEYA), 2014, all existing health and safety requirements as directed by YRPH and all existing requirements of service agreements with the government. Guidelines may be revised as required from time to time.
- Are committed to support immediate and future access to all of our programs by working in coordination with the Ministry, YRPH, school boards and other partners.
- Will communicate with families the updated pandemic response protocol regarding the enhancement of health and safety measures as well as expectations including the requirement to keep children home when they are sick. These documents are aimed at helping to keep all children, families, and educators safe and healthy.
- Will comply with a screening process as identified by YRPH.
- Will ensure all educators and participants, acknowledge an understanding of the protocol, and agree to comply with its requirements.
- Will comply with additional requirements under Enhanced Infection Prevention Control.
- Will prepare and provide training to ensure that educators are prepared to meet escalated requirements to address the COVID-19 pandemic prior to their return to work.
- Will allow access to our site for visitors based on public health recommendations.
- Will identify the entrance(s)/exit(s) for all people using our programs.
- Will ensure current child care fee schedules remains in effect for the near future. Families will be notified, in advance, of any changes to the fee schedule.
- Will ensure access to child care space through prioritizing of families based on need and local circumstances.

SIGNS & SYMPTOMS OF COVID-19

YCD will ensure that the most current information, regarding the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 for both adults and children, are prominently posted in all of our programs, shared with educators and families and available on our website. This information will be obtained from YRPH. <https://www.york.ca/wps/portal/yorkhome/health/yr/covid-19>

HOW COVID-19 SPREADS AND REDUCING THE RISK OF TRANSMISSION

YCD will ensure that the most current information, regarding how COVID-19 spreads and how to reduce the risk of transmission are prominently posted in all of our programs shared with educators and families and available on our website. This information will be obtained from YRPH. <https://www.york.ca/wps/portal/yorkhome/health/yr/covid-19>

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MAXIMUM GROUP SIZES AND RATIOS

- We are permitted to operate child care programs using maximum group sizes and are required to maintain ratios as permitted under CCEYA, 2014.
- More than one child care program can be offered per building if they are able to maintain separation between the groups and/or programs.
- Reduced ratios are permitted as set out under the CCEYA, 2014 if groups are not mixed.
- Mixed age grouping is permitted as set out under the CCEYA, 2014 where director approval has been granted on the license.
- Children are permitted to attend on a part time basis and must be included in the maximum group size for the period they are in attendance. As with children attending full time, children attending part time should be included in one group and should not mix with other groups.
- Each group should stay together throughout the day and as much as possible should not mix with other groups.

STAFFING

Movement of supervisors and/or designates and educators between child care locations and between licensed age groups is permitted. Reducing the movement of educators where possible is encouraged to minimize potential for transmission. All YCD educators are required to have a valid certification in first aid training including infant and child CPR based on WSIB requirements (recertification/ certification has been extended until December 31, 2021). All YCD staff are required to obtain a VSC or have applied in reasonable time as required in the YCD Reference Check Policy.

- Daily routines and schedules will be established and shared to use during COVID-19 recovery.
- We will ensure physical distancing for staff breaks.
- We will ensure staff schedules limit the rooms educators go into while ensuring all duties are completed and develop extra precautions to protect staff and limit the spread of COVID-19.
- We have established a daily health screening protocol and an approved daily screening tool, for staff use.
- Educators will work at only one location where possible.
- We can request that Director Approvals (DA) for educators be transferred from one child care program to another.
- We can request a DA for multiple age groups.
- We will avoid unnecessary contact: all staff are not to participate in in-person meetings; we will utilize technology such as teleconference or video conference solutions.

Educator Training

All YCD educators will be trained prior to their first day back, for worker and child/family protection, on the protocol found within the PRP. Updated training to address any iteration to this plan will be provided as required.

HEALTH AND SAFETY PROTOCOLS

YCD has employed multiple strategies and a layering of controls to support healthier and safer environments for children and educators. YCD has written policies and procedures, consistent with direction from YRPH, outlining our health and safety protocols. These protocols were developed to prevent and minimize the impact of COVID-19 and include:

- how cleaning and disinfecting the space, toys and equipment will be conducted
- how to report illness
- how physical distancing will be encouraged, particularly between groups
- requirements on the use of medical masks and eye protection, and personal protective equipment (PPE), including information on exemptions or exceptions
- how shifts will be scheduled
- how attendance records will be organized and maintained to facilitate contact tracing
- a communication plan in the event of a case/outbreak

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- rescheduling of group events and/or in-person meetings
- parent drop off and pick up procedures

Cleaning Protocols

YCD has reviewed existing practices and determined where enhancements are required, including frequency and timing of cleaning and disinfection, areas to clean and disinfect, choice of cleaning products, and child safety, staffing, signage, and PPE use when cleaning.

In addition to the focus on regular hand hygiene to reduce the risk of infection related to high touch surfaces all YCD child care spaces will be cleaned frequently.

Cleaning and Disinfecting Surfaces and Other Items

- Focus will be on enhanced hand hygiene to reduce the risk of infection related to high touch surfaces.
- Child care centres will be cleaned frequently.
- YCD will only use disinfectants that have a Drug Identification Number (DIN) which is an 8-digit number given by Health Canada that confirms it is approved for use in Canada.
- YCD will ensure all products are current dated and that we follow manufacturers' instructions and respect the disinfectant kill time for germs on product label.
- Cleaning plus disinfection twice daily is suggested at a minimum, however, more frequent cleaning and disinfection may be necessary, depending on the frequency of use and extent of soilage.
- YCD has implemented a cleaning and disinfecting log to track and demonstrate cleaning schedules.
- It is important that all employees understand their roles and responsibilities.
- Updated health and safety protocol will be posted for all employees.

School Board Supports

The school boards will be providing additional support to child care and school age programs for the enhanced cleaning and disinfecting needed in response to COVID-19. Caretakers will limit the number of times they enter the child care or school age rooms during program hours. A medical mask and shield/goggles will be required for caretakers to enter the rooms as per Ministry operating guidelines and YCD policy. A review of the cleaning and disinfecting responsibility for staff and caretaking personnel will be reviewed during staff training prior to opening.

- There will be a cleaning and disinfecting schedule (log to be completed) for each space.
- Cleaning and disinfecting routines will be increased where the risk of environmental contamination is higher.
- All touched surfaces will be cleaned and disinfected frequently (minimum twice per day).
- We will launder cot sheets, blankets, face cloths, towels, smocks, and bibs, on a regular basis.

Hand Hygiene & Respiratory Etiquette

Appropriate hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette are among the most important protective strategies. All YCD educators will be trained and able to assist children on appropriate hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette, including the use of alcohol-based hand rub (ABHR), and reinforcing its use.

Hand hygiene should be conducted by anyone entering a program and incorporated into the daily schedule at regular intervals during the day, above and beyond what is usually recommended (for example, before eating food, after using the washroom).

- Soap and water are preferred as the most effective method and least likely to cause harm if accidentally ingested.
- For any dirt, blood, body fluids (urine/feces), it is recommended that hands be washed with soap and water.
- ABHR with a minimum 60% alcohol concentration must be available (60-90% recommended, including ideally at the entry point to each child care room) and/or plain liquid soap in dispensers, sinks and paper towels in dispensers.

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- Safe placement of the ABHR to avoid consumption is important, especially for young children.
- ABHR can be used by children. It is most effective when hands are not visibly soiled.
- Support or modifications should be provided to allow children with special needs to regularly perform hand hygiene as independently as possible.
- Tissues and lined, no-touch waste baskets (for example, foot pedal-operated, hand sensor, open basket) are to be provided, where possible.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

All YCD educators will be trained on the proper use of PPE provided. YCD will ensure an adequate supply of PPE and cleaning supplies to support ongoing operations.

Full PPE is used in the program:

- When conducting active screens of children, staff, or essential visitors.
- When taking care of a symptomatic child at the centre prior to pick up.
- When cleaning and disinfecting an area/room of a suspected or confirmed COVID-19 case.
- When a staff member becomes sick at work.
- When encountering blood or body fluids.

Medical Masks & Eye Protection

Adults

- All YCD educators are required to wear medical masks while indoors, including in hallways and staff rooms
- Eye protection is required for educators working in close contact with children who are not wearing face protection (children younger than grade 1).
- Eye protection is not required for individuals working with children who wear face protection (children grade 1 and above).
- Masking and eye protection are not required outdoors. Physical distancing is strongly encouraged between groups.
- Hands will be washed prior to donning a mask and after removing a mask.

Children

- Masks are not recommended for children under the age of two.
- Children younger than grade 1 are encouraged to wear a non-medical or cloth mask while inside a child care setting, including in hallways.
- All children in grades 1 and above are required to wear a properly fitted non-medical or cloth mask while inside a child care setting, including in hallways.
- Masking is not required outdoors. Physical distancing is strongly encouraged between groups.
- Parents/guardians are responsible for providing their school-aged children with a mask.
- Exclusions from wearing masks/eye protection will be evaluated on an individual basis.
- Exceptions to wearing masks indoors could include situations where a child or educator cannot tolerate wearing a mask, reasonable exceptions for medical conditions, etc.
- Signage regarding the donning and doffing of face covering will be posted throughout the centre.

Gloves and Gowns

- All gloves and gowns provided are compatible with the disinfectant products being used.
- Gloves and gowns should be removed carefully to avoid contamination of the wearer and the surrounding area. Be sure to clean hands after removing gloves.
- Gloves should be removed after cleaning a room or area occupied by ill persons.
- Signage regarding personal protective practices will be posted throughout the programs.

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Screening for Symptoms

All individuals entering a YCD child care program must self-screen every day before attending the program using the provincial screening tool or a screening tool designated by YRPH. The screen tool may be updated as required.

- Parents and guardians are to screen their children for symptoms of illness every day.
- Parents or guardians of any child that has not completed the screening for symptoms prior to arriving at the child care setting will be required to complete screening prior to entry.
- Educators will support families in the use of the electronic screening tool to ensure ease of use.
- All child care centre educators and visitors must self-screen.
- YCD has an electronic system in place to collect daily screens for all individuals entering our programs.
- Any individuals that do not pass the screening procedures will be asked to return home and self-isolate
- All individuals must follow the monitoring and isolation advice outlined in the screening tool.
- YCD will ensure signs are posted at entrances to the child care program to remind educators, parents/caregivers, and visitors of screening requirements.
- Self-assessment information will be made available to families and educators to ensure awareness of possible symptoms of COVID-19.

In the rare event that an electronic screen is not available educators must conduct an active screen.

For screening an individual at the child care setting and escorting children to the program, educators will take appropriate precautions that may include, maintaining a distance of at least 2 metres from those being screened, being separated by a physical barrier (such as a plexiglass barrier), and providing alcohol-based hand rub containing 60% to 90% alcohol content at all screening stations.

Attendance Records

In addition to attendance records for children we will be maintaining daily records of anyone entering the program. These records will include all individuals who enter the premises (e.g., cleaners, people doing maintenance work, people providing supports for children with special needs).

- Records will be kept on the premises and along with name and contact information will include time of arrival and time of departure, screening completion for each individual and PPE use.
- Records will be kept up-to-date and available to facilitate contact tracing in the event of a confirmed COVID-19 case or outbreak (i.e., records can be made available to YRPH within 24 hours of a confirmed COVID-19 case or outbreak).

MONITORING AND RESPONDING TO REPORTS OF COVID-19 SYMPTOMS

Persons who test positive for COVID-19 should follow the guidance of YRPH and health care professionals regarding direction for isolation and returning to a child care setting. The individual cannot return, to work or child care, until cleared by YRPH. Note that individuals do not need to provide a medical note or proof of negative result to return to the program. All child care and early years sector partners, together with Ministry of Health and local Public Health units, will work closely to monitor and respond to reports of COVID-19 symptoms.

If an individual becomes ill while in the child care setting:

- The ill individual must be immediately separated from others, in a separate room where possible (i.e., an isolation room). Parents/guardians must be contacted for pick-up of symptomatic children.
- Symptomatic children who are separated from others must be supervised.
- Anyone providing care to the ill individual should maintain as much physical distance as possible. If physical distancing is not possible (e.g., if a young child needs comfort) educators should consider additional PPE (i.e., gloves, gown).
- The person caring for the individual must wear a medical mask and eye protection and be trained on proper use of PPE, including donning and doffing.
- If tolerated, the ill individual should also wear a medical mask.
- Hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette will be practiced while the ill individual is waiting to be picked up.

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- Cleaning of the area the ill individual was in and other areas of the child care setting where the ill individual was should be conducted as soon as reasonably possible after the ill individual leaves.
- The ill individual and/or their parent or guardian should be advised to use the online self-assessment tool and follow instructions which may include seeking medical advice and/or going for testing for COVID-19.
- Communication protocols to update and inform necessary stakeholders within the child care community while maintaining confidentiality of the ill individual should be initiated (e.g., contact the school, home child care agency, service system manager and/or ministry through a Serious Occurrence Report as applicable).
- Regular child care operation can continue unless directed otherwise by YRPH.
- An ill individual who has a known alternative diagnosis provided by a health care professional may return to child care if they do not have a fever and their symptoms have been improving for at least 24 hours.

Reporting and Serious Occurrences Reporting

YCD has a duty to report suspected or confirmed cases of COVID-19 to the medical officer of health under the Health Protection and Promotion Act.

- YRPH officials will determine any additional steps required, including but not limited to how to monitor for other possible infected staff and children and the declaration of an outbreak and closure of rooms and/or entire child care settings.
- If a closure is ordered by YRPH and YCD has already submitted a serious occurrence for a confirmed case, the existing serious occurrence must be updated to reflect the closure.

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

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

YCD is no longer required to report a serious occurrence for suspected cases. If YRPH determines that a full or partial closure is required a serious occurrence report will be submitted under the “Unplanned Disruption of Service” category. YCD will ensure educators are informed if they may have been exposed in the workplace.

Outbreak Management

An outbreak may be declared by YRPH when within a 14-day period, there are two or more laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 cases in children, staff, or other visitors with an epidemiological link (e.g., cases in the same room, cases that are part of the same before/after school care cohort) where at least one case could have reasonably acquired their infection in the child care setting.

YRPH will work with us to determine whether epidemiological links exist between cases and whether transmission may have occurred in the child care program.

- If YRPH declares an outbreak, they will determine what happens next. This could include closing particular child care rooms or cohorts or an entire child care program.
- YRPH will help determine which groups of children and/or educators need to be sent home or if a partial or full closure of the child care setting is required.
- If YRPH determines that partial or full closure of the child care setting is required, YCD will revise the existing serious occurrence report for a confirmed COVID-19 case to include information about the closure.

PROGRAMS

Educators will be working with a small group of children during this recovery period. The building of supportive, caring, and responsive relationships is at the forefront. We need to create a safe space where children can play and interact with adults and their peers. The ministry recognizes the detrimental impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on children’s mental health and well-being. The ministry’s documents, ‘How Does Learning Happen?’ and ‘Building on How Does Learning Happen?’ support the operation of early years and child care programs in Ontario during the COVID-19 outbreak.

Consistent with these documents it is expected that programs are guided by the following principles:

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- View of the Child: All students are competent, capable of complex thinking, curious and rich in potential. Environments and experiences allow students to exercise choice and responds to individual abilities and interests.
- Positive Interactions: Programs support students in making connections with their peers and educators in structured and unstructured interactions as well as provide opportunities for students to engage in independent activities. All students, including students with differing abilities feel valued, connected to others, and are able to make positive contributions to the group, community, and natural world.
- Developmentally Responsive: All students are able to participate fully in ways that are most comfortable for them. Programs support physical and mental health and wellness and are rooted in an understanding of child development and the broader contexts within which this development is happening (e.g., local, social, cultural, economic).
- Safe, Inclusive Spaces: Programs establish and maintain positive, harassment/discrimination free environments for optimal participant growth so that students, each with differing abilities, interests and perspectives feel that their experiences and strength are valued.

Our goal will be to provide as much of the daily program, as possible, outdoors. Outdoor spaces naturally allow for greater physical distancing as well as a decreased likelihood of virus transmission. YCD will require all educators to be familiar with the Program Statement and other relevant documents.

Communications with Families

YCD will ensure ongoing communication with families:

- Regarding the enhancement of health and safety measures making expectations clear.
- By providing links to helpful information as well as detailed instructions regarding screening and protocols if a child or individual in the program becomes ill.
- Regarding any changes to policies so they are aware of the changes.

Drop-Off and Pick-up Procedures

YCD has developed protocol to support safe entry and dismissal including:

- Separate entrances and exits for cohorts (where applicable).
- Staggered entrance times.
- All entrances will have ABHR with a concentration of 60- 90% available with signage demonstrating appropriate use.
- Some locations will be using signage/markings on the ground to direct families through the entry steps.
- We ask that personal belongings be labeled and kept in the child's cubby/designated area. (e.g., backpack, hats, and mittens, etc.). While appropriate clothing for the weather (e.g., jackets, hats, sunscreen) should continue to come with the child, other personal belongings (e.g., toys) should be minimized.

Field Trips

Field trips are permitted as per the Reopening Ontario Act. YCD will not be resuming field trips at this time.

Visitors and Students on Placement

Only essential visitors will be permitted to enter our programs at this time. No student placements at this time.

Physical Distancing

Physical distancing between children in a child care setting can be difficult to maintain; however, it is an important strategy that should be encouraged whenever possible. It is also important to maintain a welcoming and caring environment for children. Please see the document Building On How Does Learning Happen? for more support and ideas on how to provide an engaging environment while physically distancing.

More than one child care can be offered per building/space if they are able to maintain separation between the groups/cohorts and follow all health and safety requirements that apply to those programs.

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- Physical barriers (which begin at the floor and reach a minimum height of 8 feet) are not required if 2 metres can be maintained between cohorts.
- 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 encouraged, as much as 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.
 - using visual cues to promote physical distancing.
- In shared outdoor space, mixing between groups and any other individuals outside of the group is permitted, though physical distancing should be encouraged between groups as much as possible.
- Increased distance between cots/resting mats is encouraged as well as placing children head to toe or toe to toe if space is limited.
- Recognizing that physical distancing is difficult with small children and infants, additional suggestions include:
 - planning activities for smaller groups when using shared objects or toys
 - when possible, moving activities outside to allow for more space
- Singing is permitted indoors with appropriate PPE and physical distancing.

Shared Spaces/Objects

- We are encouraged to provide toys and equipment, which are made of materials that can be cleaned and disinfected.
- Shared toys and equipment will be cleaned and disinfected.
- We encourage designated toys and equipment (e.g., balls, loose equipment) for each room or group of children.
- If sensory materials (e.g., playdough, water, sand, etc.) are offered, emphasis should be placed on hand hygiene before and after the use of materials.
- Mouthed toys will be cleaned and disinfected immediately after the child is finished using it.
- Individually labelled craft/sensory bags/buckets may be utilized.
- Children must not share any personal items such as soothers, bottles, sippy cups.

Regarding shared materials when an individual is suspected of having COVID-19 in the child care setting:

- YCD has protocol in place to identify contaminated areas and carry out cleaning and disinfection, including timing, when to return to use, methods of cleaning, PPE to be used while cleaning, and waste disposal.
- Identified areas that may require cleaning plus disinfection (items used by the individual and all surfaces within 2 metres of the ill person) versus cleaning alone (such as a hallway or room where the individual has passed through).

Outdoor Play

- Outdoor programming should occur for the bulk of program hours, other than rest time, as weather permits.
- Outdoor programs will be scheduled in small groups/by cohort to facilitate physical distancing. Where the outdoor play area is large enough to accommodate multiple groups, we may divide the space with physical markers to ensure cohorts remain separated by at least six feet.
- Outdoor structures can only be used by one cohort at a time and should be cleaned and disinfected before and after each use by each cohort. Outdoor equipment (e.g., balls, hoops) will be designated and stored for each cohort. Where toys and equipment are shared, they will be cleaned and disinfected prior to and after being shared. (i.e., bikes, helmets).
- Children are to bring their own sunscreen where possible and it will not be shared. Staff may assist to apply sunscreen to any child requiring it and will exercise proper hand hygiene when doing so (for example washing hands before and after application).

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Food Service

- All food will be delivered daily, by Yummy Catering, and prepared, handled, stored, and served in a safe manner as outlined in Food Premises Regulation 493/17.
- Multi-use utensils will be cleaned and sanitized between uses as per requirements outlined in Food Premises Regulation 493/17.
- Food handlers must be in good health and practice hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette.
- Physical distancing will be maintained in the kitchen.
- Family style meals are permitted.
- Hand hygiene is required before and after meals.
- Educators will reinforce 'no sharing' food or items between children.
- Limited chairs will be spaced out around the tables.
- Educators will sit and engage in conversations with the children (while wearing PPE).

Laundry

- All laundry will be handled in a manner that minimizes spreading the virus.
- Laundering will be done with regular laundry soap and hot water (60oC – 90oC) and dried thoroughly.
- Linens (cot sheets) soiled with fecal material will be washed separately.
- Children's soiled clothing will be bagged and sent home to be laundered.
- Clothing and linen from an ill/infected child will be sent home for cleaning.
- Washcloths, towels, and linens will not be shared between children and laundered after each use.

Diapering and Washrooms

- Children's bathroom sink, counter and toilet surfaces will be cleaned initially and after the use of children.
- Only one cohort should access the washroom at a time, and it is recommended that the facilities be cleaned in between each use, particularly if different cohorts will be using the same washroom.
- Staff will be responsible to clean and disinfect the toilet and sink prior to and after use (adult washrooms).
- All washrooms will be stocked with soap and paper towels.
- Diaper changing areas will be cleaned before and after the use of each child.
- For creams and lotions during diapering, never put hands directly into lotion or cream bottles, use a tissue or single-use gloves. Upon arrival at the centre, wipe the cream/lotion container with a disinfecting wipe.
- Individual hygiene items such as diaper cream will be labelled and store them separately.

Sleep Routines (toddlers and preschool only)

- During rest time, we will increase the distance between cots and place children head to toe.
- Where possible cot placement will allow for a 2-metre distance between children.
- Blankets will be laundered weekly.
- Cots will be disinfected weekly.
- Cots will be stored in a manner where there is no contact with the sleeping surface of another cot.
- Daily routine of sleep supervision will continue. (Policy 5:33)

Waste Management

- Each program room will have a hands-free garbage can to alleviate the need to touch the lid.
- In child care, caretaking staff will be responsible to manage garbage during the day.
- A COVID -19: Waste Handling Tips poster will be visible in each program room.

Blood/ Bodily and Fluid Spills

In the event of blood/bodily Fluid Spills, using the steps below, the surface must be cleaned first then disinfected:

- Isolate the area around the spill so that no other objects/humans can be contaminated.

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- Gather all supplies, perform hand hygiene, then put on single-use nitrile gloves.
- Scoop up the fluid with disposable paper towels (check the surrounding area for splash/splatter) and dispose of in separate garbage bag.
- Clean the spill area with detergent, warm water, and single-use towels.
- Rinse to remove detergent residue with clean water and single-use towel.
- Discard used paper towels and gloves immediately in a tied plastic bag.
- Spray disinfectant in and around the spill area and allow the appropriate disinfecting contact time.
- A final rinse is required if children come into contact with the area.
- Remove gloves as directed and discard them immediately.
- Perform hand hygiene as directed.

Before & After School Programs

All protocols outlined in this document pertain to the Before & After School Programs operated by YCD. Additional guidance and information specific to these programs are identified below:

The ministry recognizes that for Before & After School Programs to be operational and viable, it may not be possible to limit students in the Before & After School Programs to their cohorts from the core day.

The ministry recommends that, in circumstances where students from different school day classes must interact to participate in the Before & After School Programs, efforts to limit interactions between students from different cohort be made to the greatest extent possible.

Best practices to limit interactions between students from different cohorts and reduce transmission of COVID-19 may include:

- Making best efforts to group the Before & After School Programs class with the same core day class (e.g., determining core day classes based on whether the child is enrolled in the before and after school program); and
- Making use of large, well-ventilated spaces (e.g., gymnasium) or outdoor spaces as much as possible for the before and after school programs; and
- Maintain up-to-date lists of students in each Before & After School Programs cohort to facilitate timely follow-up should a confirmed case of COVID-19 be identified.
- Before & After School Programs are required to follow strict health and safety guidelines, which are equivalent to those in schools.
- School boards are required to ensure that the classroom is cleaned and disinfected after the core day program ends and the Before & After School Programs begins.
- Outdoor play or the use of alternative space will be used during the time cleaning and disinfecting takes place.
- All Before & After School Programs will maintain daily records of screening results.
- Records are to be kept on the premises.
- If the program is in the school or a shared space setting (e.g., community centre), follow public health advice on notifying others using the space of the suspected illness.
- The Information Sharing Consent Form, required by the school board, will allow for the sharing of screening results, child's health etc. between YCD and the applicable school board as an additional mitigating strategy to reduce the spread of COVID-19.
- If any staff, student, or child demonstrates, symptoms of illness it must be also be reported to the principal.

Licensing Processes and Renewals

- YCD will amended Program licenses, if necessary, to ensure director approvals and conditions on the license align with new restrictions.
- YCD will meet all the requirements set out in the CCEYA, 2014 and its regulations and obtain all necessary municipal approvals to support license revision requests.

YCD CHILD CARE PANDEMIC RESPONSE PLAN SEPTEMBER 2021

- YCD will follow all current ministry and municipal policies and guidelines.

Inspections

Ministry staff will conduct in-person monitoring and licensing inspections of child care program where necessary.

- Using technology (e.g., telephone, video conferencing) to complete virtual monitoring and licensing inspections where appropriate.
- Will complete screening protocol and comply with YCD/ occupational health and safety. regarding PPE.

LINKS / RESOURCES

- **Visit:** www.york.ca/covid19 or **Contact:** York Region Public Health at 1-800-361-5653
- Ontario COVID-19:
<https://www.ontario.ca/page/2019-novel-coronavirus>
- Canada COVID-19:
<https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/coronavirus-disease-covid-19.html>
- Public Health Ontario: <https://www.publichealthontario.ca/>
- Public Health Agency of Canada:
<https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/coronavirus-disease-covid-19.html>
- World Health Organization (WHO):
<https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019>
- Ministry of Health:
http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/publichealth/coronavirus/2019_guidance.aspx
- **Follow the Public Health Agency of Canada's steps for self-assessment:** <https://www.canada.ca/coronavirus>
- The following resource can be provided to families and printed for the child care site:
- *Poster: What you need to know to help you and your family stay healthy* <https://files.ontario.ca/moh-coronavirus-pec-poster-en-2020-03-09.pdf>
- **For detailed information on surface cleaning, please visit:** <https://www.publichealthontario.ca/-/media/documents/ncov/factsheet-covid-19-environmental-cleaning.pdf?la=en>