

FACT SHEET

#1 - Health and Safety Practices

NOTE: The following does not replace the detailed routine practices set out in the *Guidelines for the Prevention and Control of Communicable Diseases in Early Learning and Childcare (ELC) Facilities*. It is intended to highlight the practices that are critical to ensure the health and safety of you, your staff and the children in your care. Please review your facility's outbreak management plan and communicable disease protocols with staff to ensure all staff are well informed of their responsibilities.

1. Questions at arrival

Every day, educators must ask parents who are dropping off their children the following questions. If any of the answers to the questions are yes, the child cannot attend the Emergency Facility. Educators are also to self-evaluate themselves by using the same questions and if any of the answers are yes, they are also not permitted in the facility.

In order to answer the following questions, parents are asked to check their child's temperature daily before coming to the Emergency Facility. If the parent has not checked the temperature, the facility must check it prior to the child entering the facility. Staff must also monitor their own temperatures.

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°)

Ear (not recommended in infants): 35.8-38.0°C (96.4-100.4°F)

Do you, or your child attending the Emergency Facility, have any of the below symptoms:
• Fever
• Cough
• Shortness of Breath / Difficulty Breathing
• Sore throat
• Runny Nose / Nasal Congestion
• Feeling unwell / Fatigued
• Nausea / Vomiting / Diarrhea
• Muscle Aches
• Headache
• Conjunctivitis
Have you, or anyone in your household, travelled outside of Canada in the last 14 days?
Have you or your children had close contact (face-to-face contact within 2 metres/6 feet) with someone who is ill with cough and/or fever?
Have you or anyone in your household been in contact in the last 14 days with someone that is being investigated or confirmed to be a case of COVID-19?

If any of the answers to the questions are YES, the individual CANNOT attend the Emergency Facility.

2. Hand washing technique

Hand washing is the most effective way to prevent the spread of communicable disease. Good hand washing technique is the most important component to effective hand hygiene. The attached link¹ (in the footnote at the bottom of this page) demonstrates proper hand washing. You are encouraged to review and practice these procedures with staff and children. Remember to closely monitor children while they are washing their hands.

3. Soap or sanitizer?

Regular soap is highly recommended. Antibacterial soap is not required. While hand sanitizers (alcohol-based rubs) can be an option, to be effective they must contain **no less** than 70% to 90% alcohol.

During the COVID-19 outbreak, soap and water is the recommended option. Hand sanitizers should only be used as a supplement to soap and water and not a replacement.

¹ https://www2.gnb.ca/content/gnb/en/departments/ocmoh/healthy_people/content/hand_washing.html
 Education and Early Childhood Development
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4. Hand washing – when and how often?

Continue to follow the list below and increase frequency, as appropriate

Staff and children must wash hands:	Staff must also wash hands:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • on arrival; • before meals; • after using the toilet; • after blowing nose, coughing or sneezing; • after playing with shared toys; • before and after visiting with people who are sick; • after handling animals or their waste; • when taking medications; and • after playing outside. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • before and after preparing food; • after helping a child use the toilet; • after breaks; • before and after changing diapers; and • before and after giving medications

5. Ways of reducing risk

Continue these practices:

- use disposable tissues for wiping noses and discard appropriately after one use;
- sneeze and cough into your sleeve rather than the hand;
- hand washing after coughing, sneezing or using tissues; and
- keep hands away from the face, especially the mucous membranes of the eyes, mouth and nose.

#2 - Exclusion

Q. Do we continue to follow the exclusion criteria set out under section 45 of the Licensing Regulation and Guidelines for the Prevention and in the Control of Communicable Diseases in Early Learning and Childcare (ELC) Facilities ?

A. Yes, the health and safety of all children and staff remains a priority. Proper exclusion is one of the most important and effective measures in controlling an outbreak. Parental and staff cooperation is critical.

Q. What do we do if a child becomes ill and/or exhibits signs of a fever, dry cough, or difficulty breathing while attending my facility?

A. Parents are expected to actively monitor their child’s health. You must isolate the child and contact the parent to make **immediate** arrangements to pick up their child. The parent is responsible to contact 811 who will guide them through next steps.

Q. Must we continue to report to Public Health?

A. Yes. COVID-19 is a notifiable disease under the *Public Health Act*, as it is a global pandemic. Direct all calls to the Public Health Communicable Disease line as indicated below. Be prepared to provide information as set out on page 5 and 6 of the *Guidelines for the Prevention and Control of Communicable Diseases in Early Learning and Childcare (ELC) Facilities*.

Public Health Communicable Disease Team Contact List:

Central Region

Zone 3

Fredericton (Regular hours):

Main office (506) 453-5200

Communicable Disease Line (506) 444-5905

Central Region after-hours emergency number (506) 453-8128

South Region

Zone 2

Saint John (Regular hours):

Main office (506) 658-2454

Communicable Disease Line (506) 658-5188

South Region after-hours emergency number (506) 658-2764

East Region

Moncton (Regular hours):

Main office (506) 856-2814

Communicable Disease Line (506) 856-3220

Zone 1

Moncton (Regular hours):

Main office (506) 856-2401

Communicable Disease Line (506) 856-3220

Zone 7

Miramichi (Regular hours):

Main office (506) 778-6756

Communicable Disease Line (506) 778-6104

East Region after-hours emergency number (506) 856-2004

North Region

Edmundston (Regular hours):

Main office (506) 737-4400

Campbellton (Regular hours):
Main office (506) 789-2549
Bathurst (Regular hours):
Main office (506) 549-5550

Zone 4
Edmundston (Regular hours):
Main office (506) 735-2065

Zone 5
Campbellton (Regular hours):
Main office phone number (506) 789-2266

Zone 6
Bathurst (Regular hours):
Main office phone number (506) 547-2062
Communicable Disease Line (506) 547-2067
North Region after-hours emergency number (506)789-2428

Note:

Regular hours are 8:15 am - 4:30 pm Monday-Friday.

The after-hours emergency number is to report notifiable diseases after 4:30 pm on weekdays and on the weekends and holidays. The pager is intended for emergency reporting only – operators are asked to keep the after-hours pager number confidential within the facility (only for operators and staff).

Q. Are essential services workers expected to follow the directives of the Chief Medical Officer related to any travel outside of New Brunswick in the past 14 days and/or exposure to someone diagnosed with COVID-19?

A. Yes.

Q. Essential service workers are exposed daily to individuals who may have or be carriers of COVID-19. How will we protect the health and safety of staff and children?

A. Public Health is carefully monitoring the situation both provincially and globally. Essential service workers who have been exposed to confirmed or presumptive cases while performing their duties will be required to withdraw their children from early learning and childcare.

#3 - Social Distancing

Q. How will we ensure the recommended two metres (six feet) of social distancing, particularly with young children?

A. We understand that this will be difficult given the needs of young children. Assign staff to specific rooms and minimize movement of staff and children between rooms.

All operators know that established staff child ratio must be respected for all age groups. However, all facilities must operate with reduced group sizes and provide full access to all usable play space so that greater separation between children can occur.

Example: The regulated group size for three-year-old children is 16 children with two educators. Group size must be reduced to eight or less. Where possible, in two distinct spaces. Where sufficient staff are available, the number of children grouped together should be further reduced to minimize contact.

School-age children may be better able to understand the situation. The department will work with you and your educators to find resources that will engage the children, but at the same time allowing social distancing. Group sizes for school-age children must be reduced to 10 or less children occupying one play area or lower, if space permits.

Ensuring longer periods of outdoor time daily will allow children to move more freely in open spaces.

#4 – Outdoor Play Space and Playgrounds

While there are restrictions on use of community parks and playgrounds, children should have daily outdoor play time. Consider walks in the neighbourhood and staying within open areas and/or your facility's play space.

Q. Are we able to take the children to community parks and playgrounds?

A. No. Public parks and playgrounds are not to be used during this time as there is no capacity to ensure that they are clean, sanitized and safe for children.

Q. Our facility is located in a school. Are we able to use the school playground?

A. No. School playgrounds have been closed for sanitary and safety reasons.

Q. Are we required to clean and disinfect our outdoor play equipment?

A. Yes. All toys and equipment used outside must be cleaned and disinfected in accordance to the enhanced cleaning protocols. Handrails and other surfaces on climbing equipment must be disinfected daily.

#5 - Enhanced Cleaning Requirements

Routine disease control involves following a cleaning and disinfection schedule to help limit the contamination of the environment. In the current situation, early learning and childcare facilities providing essential services must implement enhanced cleaning and disinfecting practices, as described below.

Q. What are the expectations for enhanced cleaning and disinfection?

A. Enhanced cleaning and disinfecting measures include: following routine cleaning and disinfecting procedures as currently prescribed, but on a more frequent basis, especially of high touch areas (i.e. doorknobs, toys, railings, tables, washrooms, light switches); changing your disinfection product or increasing the concentration; using toys that are easy to clean and disinfect. (Refer to Appendix D of the *Guidelines for the Prevention and Control of Communicable Diseases in Early Learning and Childcare (ELC) Facilities*).

Q. Are regular disinfection solutions acceptable?

A. Disinfecting requires a stronger concentration of bleach (or appropriate chemical) to kill the germs. There are many disinfectants that are approved for use in the early learning and childcare environment.

All disinfectants should have a PCP or DIN number or contain chlorine bleach. To ensure the products being used are effective, consult with Public Health.

Q. If higher concentrations of disinfectants are required, what are the mixing requirements?

A. Always follow the manufacturer's instructions when using commercially prepared disinfectants. Test strips that verify the strength of sanitizers and disinfectants mixed at the ELC facility must to be available on site. (Refer to Appendix E of the *Guidelines for the Prevention and Control of Communicable Diseases in Early Learning and Childcare (ELC) Facilities*)

Q. What is the recommended concentration during an outbreak?

A. Recommended concentrations 5000 ppm (5.25%) bleach mixed as follows:

100 ml bleach in 1L (4 cups) water or ¼ cup bleach in 2 ¼ cups water

It is important to follow measurements carefully when using bleach – **more is not necessarily better**. Bleach used for disinfection is at 5.25% strength and is found at most grocery stores. Prepare a dilution of fresh bleach every day and discard unused mixed portions.

Q. Are there risks for children and staff when disinfection practices are increased?

A. Caution must be used when using bleach in an early learning and childcare setting. Strong bleach odours may be irritating for some individuals if breathed in.

Increased ventilation by opening doors and windows should be considered and/or isolate the area and disinfect by this method after everyone has left the building, if possible.

Q. Will we have access to external support for enhanced cleaning?

A. Yes. You will receive \$500 per week per licence to help offset the cost of buying cleaning products and for hiring additional cleaners.

#6 – Supports

Government departments have been directed to operate at a reduced capacity; however, we want to assure you that employees of the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development, for example licensing staff, and Public Health will continue to be available to respond to your questions and assist you and your staff in the upcoming days and weeks.

Please take note of the following Public Health Regional phone numbers for health-related questions or issues in support of ELC Operators:

- Central Region 453-2830
- East Region 856-2814
- South Region 658-3022
- North Region 549-5550