



MEMORANDUM

Memo No. 20-153

To: Trustees
Student Trustees

FROM: Camille Williams-Taylor, Director of Education and Secretary of the Board
Prince Duah, Superintendent of Instruction

Date: 10 November 2020

Re: **Operational Guidance During COVID-19 Outbreak**

On August 26, 2020, the government released the Operational Guidance During COVID-19 Outbreak document. This guide was developed in consultation with public health experts and aimed to help child cares reopen safely. The challenge that faced child care programs in schools with the document was that many guidelines differed from schools. The disparity was magnified when families whose children attend Before and After School programs were expected to abide by conflicting guidelines.

To continue supporting childcare safe and healthy operations across the province, on November 6, 2020, the Ministry shared revised *Operational Guidance During COVID-19 Outbreak: Child Care Reopening* document and a revised *2020-21 Before and After School Kindergarten to Grade 6 Policies and Guidelines*. In consultation with the Chief Medical Officer of Health and other health and education partners, they have updated the guidance document based on the latest public health advice and provided clarity in specific sections to align closely with the Operational Guidance for Management in Schools.

Key changes in these documents include:

- Revised guidance around cleaning spaces and equipment to align with schools' practices, including updated guidance on cleaning outdoor playground equipment;
- Revisions to the masking and eye protection requirements to clarify the difference in requirements between staff/providers, parents or other adults, children in grade 4 and above, and younger children (grade 3 and under) to align with schools;
- Revised guidance around screening practices to clarify that screening before arrival at the child care setting is preferred, encourage the use of the provincial screening tool, and remove the requirement to maintain daily screening records;

- Revised guidance on protocols for when someone in the program is symptomatic, including testing and reporting advice, and how to treat the siblings of someone who is symptomatic, to more closely align with guidance in schools;
- Clarified that a medical note is not required to return to a child care program after an individual has become ill;
- Revised the definition of an outbreak in a child care setting to two or more laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 cases in children, staff/providers or other visitors with an epidemiological link, where at least one case could have been infected in the child care setting;
- Revised guidance on reporting serious occurrences to specify that licensees are no longer required to report a serious occurrence for suspected cases and if a parent has a case of COVID-19; and
- Revised guidance on the inclusion of Special Needs Resourcing (SNR) staff in childcare settings to permit the licensee's discretion to determine which SNR staff are essential to provide in-person service in the child care setting, rather than deferring to public health officers.

This revised Operational Guidance During COVID-19 Outbreak document has been designed for use in conjunction with the Child Care and Early Year Act (CCEYA) and its regulations. In the event of a conflict between this document and CCEYA, this document will prevail. The local public health unit's advice must be followed, even if it is different from this guidance document.

An updated EarlyON Child and Family Centre guidance document that aligns with these documents, where applicable, will be released in the coming weeks.

Should you have any questions, please contact Prince Duah, Superintendent of Instruction at 596-8211, ext.8287.

c.c: Senior Staff
Manager of Board Services
Corporate Records