



## **City of Peterborough – COVID-19 Child Care Guide to Reopening**

Child care plays a critical role our community especially as Ontario prepares to reopen amid the COVID-19 pandemic. It is important that operators and staff have the necessary resources to provide quality child care with enhanced health and safety measures. For those returning to the child care workforce specific measures have been put in place to support the safe transition for both staff and families. Some of the precautions to reduce the spread of COVID-19 will include daily screening of children, families and staff, increased cleaning and disinfection and reduced group sizes. This document contains key components to support operators in reopening.

### **Peterborough Public Health Policies and Procedures**

Centres will be required to follow procedures as documented in the enhanced health and safety measures approved by Peterborough Public Health for child care operations during the COVID-19 pandemic including:

- Enhanced Environmental Cleaning and Disinfecting
- Use of Personal Protective Equipment
- Active Screening
- Active Screening Tracking Checklist (for children, staff and visitors)
- Exclusion of Sick Children/Staff
- Maximum Capacity, Cohort Size and Ratio

### **Mandatory Staff Training**

As part of the Ministry of Education's Child Care Reopening Guidelines, the City of Peterborough must ensure that training is provided to all child care staff/providers on health and safety measures prior to reopening.

Peterborough Public Health will provide a free one-hour pre-recorded training session for all child care staff/providers to watch. Rather than host a live training session on Friday, June 26 as originally communicated, PPH believes it would be best to have operators access a pre-recorded [YouTube Training Video](#) made available on the PPH website. That way, training will be expedited and will be available earlier in the week and you can arrange a time that fits best with your staff. If questions come up, you can contact your public health inspector who is familiar with your facility and will be able to provide individualized answers. All child care staff/providers must complete this training prior to reopening.



Public Health Ontario has also developed a series of training videos that staff may find helpful to assist with understanding their role in stopping the spread of COVID-19 in our community.

- 7 Steps of Hand Hygiene - <https://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/videos/7-steps-handhygiene>
- Putting on Gloves - <https://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/videos/ipac-gloves-on>
- Putting on Mask and Eye Protection - <https://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/videos/ipac-maskeyes-on>
- Taking off Mask and Eye Protection - <https://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/videos/ipac-maskeyes-off>
- Taking off a Gown and Gloves - <https://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/videos/ipac-gowngloves-off>
- Taking off Full Personal Protective Equipment - <https://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/videos/ipac-fullppe-off>
- Putting on Full Personal Protective Equipment - <https://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/videos/ipac-fullppe-on>

### **Communication with Families**

Child care operators must ensure that families are aware of the enhanced health and safety measures prior to families coming to the centre. This will ensure that families are aware of their expectations and will promote confidence in the safety measures that have been put in place.

Operators are encouraged to find other ways to communicate with families that will ensure physical distancing including telephone or video conferencing instead of face to face meetings.

Operators must ensure that there is visible signage at the entrances and drop off areas to explain the screening process and that non-essential visitors are not permitted at this time. Peterborough Public Health has developed signage to assist in communicating enhanced screening and safety measures.

- Screening Tool – Child Care Facility
- Wash your Hands
- Hand Sanitizing
- Cover your Cough
- Preventing the Spread of COVID in Child Care Facilities

Laminated copies of these signage posters are available through Children's Services. Please contact Sylvia Whelan at [swhelan@peterborough.ca](mailto:swhelan@peterborough.ca) to arrange for pick up.



**All pre-planned group events and in-person meetings are cancelled, they will be re-scheduled when permitted!**

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

The City of Peterborough will provide essential personal protective equipment (PPE) for all full day child care operators in Peterborough to support the initial reopening. PPE is stored at Children's Services. Please contact Sylvia Whelan at [swhelan@peterborough.ca](mailto:swhelan@peterborough.ca) to arrange for pick up.

### **Prioritization**

Child care centres are required to update their policies to prioritize families prior to reopening. Families that were in receipt of child care when centres closed on March 17 must be prioritized before new families can be accepted. When determining prioritization of limited child care spaces, providers may wish to consider the following:

- Returning children served through emergency child care to their original placement and continuity of service for these families
- Care for families where parents must return to work and that work outside of the home
- Families with special circumstances that would benefit from children returning to care, such as children with special needs or high-risk families.

### **Attestation Form**

The Ministry of Education has provided all child care operators with an Attestation Form. You must complete and submit this form to your Ministry of Education Program Advisor (PA) at least two days prior to your anticipated opening date.

This form confirms that you have developed and reviewed the enhanced protocols with staff and home child care providers and visitors, and how the policy was made available to parents. You will need to indicate the date the policies were reviewed by staff and shared with parents and provide a copy of your COVID-19 Enhanced Health and Safety policies to your PA. For child care centres and home child care agencies that were closed, the attestation also includes a place to indicate the date you plan to reopen. Once your PA receives the completed information, she will send a response to the operator, attaching the attestation, to confirm receipt and will copy the City of Peterborough and the Early Years Advisor.

Please note that the Attestation Form can apply to multiple licences. However, if your attestation refers to multiple licences, you must provide a list of all applicable licence numbers and child care centre/home child care agency names.

**Contact Information** - If you have any questions, please contact:  
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