



June 12, 2020

Dear Licensed Child Care Centre Operator:

Re: Licensed Child Care Centres

The Ontario government announced June 8, 2020, Stage 2 of reopening several businesses and public settings within the province.

Public Health Sudbury & Districts is one of the permitted regions that may proceed to Stage 2. This is effective at 12:01 a.m. June 12, 2020.

With the **right** to reopen businesses and public settings in our communities, comes the critical **responsibility** to do so in a *COVID-safe* way. The simple yet effective practices to prevent the spread of COVID-19 are more important now than ever.

Part of your responsibility as owner/operator is to ensure compliance with Ontario Regulation 82/20, Schedule 3 under the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act, which states:

1. (1) The person responsible for a place of business that is open shall ensure that the business operates in accordance with all applicable laws, including the Occupational Health and Safety Act and the regulations made under it.

(2) The person responsible for a place of business that is open shall operate the business in compliance with the advice, recommendations and instructions of public health officials, including any advice, recommendations or instructions on physical distancing, cleaning or disinfecting.

Public Health Sudbury & Districts has the following expectations for all workplaces and public places in our service area:

- Effective measures to maintain physical distancing amongst all employees and clients are in place. In the context of a child care centre this means ensuring staff, parents/guardians and essential visitors practise physical distancing and that precautions outlined within the [Health and Safety Guidance During COVID-19 For Employers of Child Care Centres](#) are adhered to.
- Unless the nature of work requires the use of a medical mask, all individuals wear a [non-medical mask \(for example, a homemade cloth mask or face covering\)](#) when physical distancing is

Sudbury

1300 rue Paris Street
Sudbury ON P3E 3A3
t: 705.522.9200
f: 705.522.5182

Rainbow Centre

10 rue Elm Street
Unit / Unité 130
Sudbury ON P3C 5N3
t: 705.522.9200
f: 705.677.9611

Sudbury East / Sudbury-Est

1 rue King Street
Box / Boîte 58
St.-Charles ON P0M 2W0
t: 705.222.9201
f: 705.867.0474

Espanola

800 rue Centre Street
Unit / Unité 100 C
Espanola ON P5E 1J3
t: 705.222.9202
f: 705.869.5583

Île Manitoulin Island

6163 Highway / Route 542
Box / Boîte 87
Mindemoya ON P0P 1S0
t: 705.370.9200
f: 705.377.5580

Chapleau

101 rue Pine Street E
Box / Boîte 485
Chapleau ON P0M 1K0
t: 705.860.9200
f: 705.864.0820

Toll-free / Sans frais

1.866.522.9200

phsd.ca



challenging or not possible. This applies to staff in child care centres as well as parents/guardians and essential visitors. Children are not expected to wear a mask/face covering.

- Screening practices are in place for employees, children, parents/guardians, and essential visitors at child care centres. Those who are ill are expected to stay home and are advised to be tested for COVID-19.
- Excellent hygiene practices including hand hygiene, and cough and sneeze etiquette is supported and encouraged.

What we know today

The Ontario government has released a [Framework for Reopening our Province: Phase 2: Restart – Stage 2](#). Under this framework, establishments providing licensed child care services including home based care can open with cohorting of children and staff in groups of no more than 10 people including children and staff. Proper health and safety protocols must be in place:

- Licensed child care centres are required to meet the requirements set out in the Child Care and Early Years Act, 2014 and its regulations. Centres are also required to follow recommendations from their local public health officials.
- Training must be provided to all child care staff on the health, safety and other additional centre specific requirements prior to opening.
- Follow public health guidelines regarding the use of masks and consider the use of masks and other personal protective equipment in the screening area, when cleaning and disinfecting bodily fluids and when caring for sick children.
- All individuals including staff, children, parents/guardians and visitors must be screened each day before receiving children into care.
- Individuals who are ill are expected to stay home and are advised to be tested for COVID-19.
- Immediate action must be taken should a staff or child exhibit COVID-related symptoms while at the centre. Public Health must be contacted to report a child suspected to have COVID-19.
- Frequently touched surfaces must be cleaned and disinfected at least twice daily (for example doorknobs, light switches, electronic devices). Centres should also refer to their [Ounce of Prevention Manual](#) for recommendations on cleaning and disinfecting in child care centres.
- Provide only toys that can easily be cleaned and disinfected. Where possible, have designated toys and equipment for each cohort. Where toys and equipment are shared, they should be cleaned and disinfected between cohorts.
- Recognizing that physical distancing may be challenging between children in a child care setting, physical distancing of at least 2 metres must be maintained between cohorts and, where possible, should be encouraged between children within the same cohort (spreading children to different areas, incorporating more individual activities and using visual cues to promote distancing).

Licensed Child Care Operator

June 12, 2020

Page 3 of 3

Public Health Sudbury & Districts will be reviewing community child care centre plans and, upon request, will review provider/centre specific policies. Child care centres must follow the advice and direction of Public Health Sudbury & Districts and a statement to this effect must be included in your policies and procedures. Refer to the [Health and Safety Guidance During COVID-19 For Employers of Child Care Centres](#) document and the [Ministry of Education Operational Guidance During COVID-19 Outbreak - Child Care Re-Opening](#) for best practices for minimizing the risk of COVID-19 transmission. Your public health inspector will ensure safety precautions are met at your compliance inspection.

Your cooperation in this matter is appreciated. If you have any further questions regarding this matter, please contact Ashley DeRocchis, Environmental Support Officer, Health Protection Division at 705.522.9200, ext. 499 (toll-free 1.866.522.9200). Visit www.phsd.ca/COVID-19 for additional information and resources.

Thank you,

Original signed by

Cynthia Peacock-Rocca
Manager
Health Protection Division

CPR:ja

La version française de cette lettre sera disponible sur notre site Web.