



March 23, 2020

To: All licensed and unlicensed home childcare

Re: COVID-19 Guidance for Home Child Care Settings

Ottawa Public Health is recommending that, where possible, a parent, guardian or caregiver stay at home with their children. If this is not a possibility, all home childcare providers are asked to actively screen anyone entering their home.

Active screening is the process of proactively checking for symptoms, travel history and contact with person(s) who may have COVID-19. When providing the screening, keep a distance of 2 metres (six feet) from the person(s) you are screening.

Active Screening Process:

Anyone who fits the criteria set below, will not be allowed into the homecare setting and will need to self-isolate for a period of 14 days:

- If you have any symptoms such as a fever and/or cough or difficulty breathing
- If you have travelled outside of Canada in the last 14 days (including the United States of America)
- If you live with, provided care for, or spent extensive time with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19, suspected to have COVID-19 or who has a fever, cough or shortness of breath that started within 14 days of travel outside of Canada (including the United States of America)

Symptoms being actively screened for COVID-19 include:

- Fever
- Cough
- Difficulty breathing or shortness of breath
- Other upper respiratory tract infection symptoms such as: nasal congestion, nasal discharge, sneezing and sore throat

*Please find attached a screening tool and signage to be placed at the entrance.

In addition to active screening, Ottawa Public Health is asking that Home Child Cares complete the following enhanced cleaning practices to support infection prevention and control:

- Clean and disinfect high touch surfaces at least twice a day, using an enhanced cleaner/disinfectant used for outbreaks
- Avoid sensory play (e.g. water or sand activities, use of play-dough)
- Remove shared items such as toys that cannot be easily cleaned and disinfected
- Reduce clutter and limit toys to those that can be disinfected daily
- Enhance hand hygiene practices for both staff and children



We understand that the request to stay home and not attend home child care may cause a significant burden on some families, but measures like this are needed to ensure that the spread of COVID-19 in our community is limited.

For information and current situation, please visit the [Ottawa Public Health Novel Coronavirus Main Page](#) or [Ottawa Public Health Professional Page](#).