

Pandemic Care- Isolation Protocol and Reporting for Symptomatic Persons

Revised 3 Jan 2022

Operating Details

To ensure the health and well being of children within the Region of Waterloo Children's Centres, children and staff who become ill while attending the program will be required to leave the program.

Staff must assess the situation to determine the need for when a child needs to be picked up by the parent. This can be determined through either the noticeable onset of symptoms. Staff will self monitor their own health throughout the day. Close contact is defined as being less than 2 meters apart from someone for a cumulative time of more than 15 minutes during a shift.

Protocols When a Child or Staff Demonstrates Symptoms of Illness or Becomes Sick

The teachers are to conduct surveillance and record all illnesses (respiratory and enteric) in the centre. Symptoms and signs to look for include but are not limited to:

- Fever
- Cough
- Difficulty breathing
- Sore throat or difficulty swallowing
- Nausea/vomiting • Diarrhea
- Abdominal pain
- New loss of taste or smell
- Headache and a general feeling of being unwell
- Tired or sore muscles, chills

Children should be monitored for atypical symptoms and signs of COVID-19. For more information, please see the symptoms outlined in the 'COVID-19 Reference Document for Symptoms' on the Ministry of Health's COVID-19 website.

Where a child nor staff become symptomatic mid program, and if one of the following apply-
Close contact with a COVID-19 case

Travel outside of Canada within 14 days prior to symptom onset

Been told by a doctor, healthcare provider, or public health unit to self isolate.

the supervisor will report all symptomatic children, and staff to public health using their online reporting form –

<https://forms.regionofwaterloo.ca/External/COVID-Response-external/Childcare-Reporting-Symptomatic-Staff-or-Children>

Staff COVID-19 Symptomatic

- If a staff member becomes ill while at the centre they should let their supervisor know, and remove themselves from program as soon as possible. Staff should be advised to get tested.
- Staff can contact any testing/assessment centre to book an appointment, if they are eligible.

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- The screening form will provide direction for self-monitoring or self-isolation as determined by the exposure and inform any child care facility-wide measures

Child COVID-19 Symptomatic

- Any child who develops symptoms of ill health including symptoms of ill health related to COVID-19 must leave the child care program.
- The teacher will notify the supervisor or designate immediately for contact to be made to the parent/caregiver. Pick-up shall be arranged for the child. If the parent cannot be reached, the emergency contact person will be contacted to pick up the child.
- While waiting to be picked up, the child should be isolated from all other staff and children, except for the teacher looking after the child.
- Where possible, anyone who is providing care to the child should maintain a distance of at least 2 metres while following provincial guidelines. The teacher should also wear gloves in addition to their mask and eye protection while supervising a symptomatic child. If tolerated and above the age of 2, the child should wear a surgical/procedure mask.
- Contaminated articles belonging to the symptomatic child (including soiled clothing) are sent home immediately for cleaning. Do not rinse or launder at the centre, roll and place items separately in a sealed plastic bag (take care not to contaminate the surrounding environment).

Once the child and siblings have been picked up, the child care provider will remove and dispose of PPE, according to the Public Health Ontario Don/Doffing PPE Fact Sheet • Reusable PPE if used, should be laundered immediately.

- The Supervisor will contact Region of Waterloo Public Health through the Region of Waterloo Reporting Form for Symptomatic Staff / Children to notify them of a potential case (if applicable, see above) and seek input regarding the information that should be shared with other parents of children in the child care centre. The supervisor will follow all direction provided by Public Health. The following information will be shared with Public Health:
 - a. Child care centre name, address, contact person, phone number and e-mail
 - b. Child's name, date of birth, and name of parent/guardian
 - c. Child and parent/guardian's contact information

Cleaning Post-Symptomatic Child

Cleaning will include disinfection of all toys and surfaces including tabletops, chairs, washrooms, cots, and equipment with which the child interacted and not just in the isolation room. All linens and bedding touched/used by the symptomatic child at the centre must be laundered immediately.

- Staff must use appropriate PPE when handling dirty laundry (e.g., gloves, eye protection apron etc.).
- Items unable to be disinfected will either be disposed of or quarantined in a storage area for a minimum of 7 days.

Serious Occurrence Reporting

Brason Montessori will be required to submit serious occurrences to the ministry of education only when a child or staff has a confirmed case of COVID-19, determined either by a PCR test or a Rapid Antigen Test. This serious occurrence has to be submitted under the category 'confirmed case of COVID-19' for

1. A child who attends Brason Montessori

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2. A student at Brason Montessori
3. Any teacher or staff at Brason Montessori

In addition to the SO, the confirmed case will also be reported to the Region of Waterloo Public Health and contact tracing and other activities in accordance with all applicable legislation, including the municipal freedom of information and protection of privacy act. The Public Health Officials will determine any additional steps required as how to monitor for other possible infected staff and children and the declaration of an outbreak and closure of rooms and/or the entire Montessori. If a closure is ordered by PH and the supervisor has already submitted a SO for a confirmed case , then existing SO must be updated to reflect the closure. For any additional confirmed cases, the existing SO should be revised.

While Brason Montessori is no longer required to report a serious occurrence for suspected cases, if the public health unit determines that a full or partial closure is required, that is, a program room or at the entire Montessori must remain close for a period of time, then a serious occurrence report must be submitted under the unplanned disruption of service category. Brason Montessori will also inform all the staff if they may have been exposed at the workplace.

Outbreak management

An outbreak may be declared by the local public health unit or the licensee/supervisor , when within a 14 day period, there are two or more confirmed COVID-19 cases in children, staff or other visitors with an epidemiological link example cases in the same room; cases that are part of the same cohort where at least one case should have reasonably acquired their infection at the school.

The local public health unit will work with Brason Montessori to determine whether epidemiological links exist between cases and where the transmission may have occurred at the school

If the local public health unit or the licensee/supervisor declares an outbreak, they will determine what happens next. This could include closing particular program rooms or cohorts or the entire school.

The public health unit or the licensee/supervisor will determine which groups of children and/or staff need to be sent home or if a partial or full closure of the school is required.

If the public health unit determines that partial or full closure of the Montessori is required then Brason Montessori must revise their existing serious occurrence report for a confirmed COVID-19 case to include information about the closure.