

COVID-19 Recovery Phase: Guide for parents for early learning and childcare and day camps

Introduction

As part of the recovery phase, licensed early learning and childcare facilities and unlicensed day camps will be permitted to operate, using strict health and safety guidelines. Overnight camps are **not** permitted. This will help parents in their return to work.

Babysitting is another option for parents. Ideally, the same babysitter would be used every time and preventative measures would be in place, such as a screening process for the babysitter upon arrival, and following good hand washing practices.

Science has demonstrated that children who carry and transmit COVID-19 may have very few, if any symptoms. Everyone plays a role in reducing the risk of infectious disease transmission in these facilities.

In addition, parents are advised to heed the following:

- Adults in contact with children attending a childcare facility need to be hypervigilant about monitoring for symptoms. A self-assessment tool is [available online](#).
- **If your family has a vulnerable adult at home, you will want to consider the risk of the child bringing COVID-19 home to the vulnerable adult in the home.**
- **If your child is attending a childcare facility, other family members in the child's "bubble" will want to minimize their non-essential movement outside the home.**

What can you do, as a parent, to help prevent and control COVID-19 spread?

Drop-off and Pick-up

Every family should identify one adult per family responsible for the drop-off and pick-up every day. In collaboration with the operator of your facility, set a specific time for drop-offs and pick-ups so that it is staggered with other families to reduce the number of people at facility at the same time. The drop-off and pick-up should also be done outside, whenever possible.

Pre-Screening Tool

Prior to entering a childcare facility or day camp, you and your child(ren) as well as staff, or any other visitor deemed essential (e.g. Department of Education and Early Childhood Development staff), must be pre-screened. A copy of the screening questionnaire can be found in **Appendix A**.

Pre-screening includes temperature checks, provided a non-contact thermometer (i.e. infrared) is available.

Any child or staff member who are sick with 2 or more of the following symptoms will not be able to enter the facility: fever or signs of fever, new cough or worsening chronic cough, runny nose, headache, sore throat, new onset of fatigue, new onset of muscle pain, diarrhea or loss of taste or smell **OR** a child displaying purple fingers or toes even as the only symptom.

Anyone who meets the above criteria must stay home, contact 811, and cannot return until fully recovered. If tested, Public Health will inform the individual or parent when isolation may be lifted.

Any person arriving from travel outside of New Brunswick must monitor for symptoms and avoid attending childcare facilities and day camps for 14 days.

The following section includes the measures for prevention and control by your early learning and child care facility.

Physical Distancing

Early Learning and Childcare facilities and day camps must follow the staff to child ratio when grouping children, and each group must not exceed 15 (plus staff) and no more than 2 groups per room. Each group is exempt from the 2-metre physical distancing requirement, but groups will be separated throughout the day. Although exempt, staff should encourage children not to touch other children and to practice good personal hygiene.

Cleaning and Disinfection Procedures

All surfaces, especially those general surfaces that are frequently touched, such as door knobs, handrails, toys, etc., should be cleaned at least twice daily and when soiled. Toys that children may put in their mouth must be rinsed with potable water after they have been cleaned and disinfected.

Items that cannot be easily cleaned (e.g. stuffed toys, play dough, puzzles) must be removed.

Personal Hygiene Etiquette

Hand washing

Staff and children must practise good hand hygiene. They must wash their hands frequently with soap and water.

Other Personal Hygiene Etiquette

Children should bring their own toiletries, and these are to be stored in a way to prevent cross-contamination. Children should be encouraged to avoid touching the face, eyes, nose or mouth with unwashed hands. When coughing or sneezing, cover the mouth and nose with a disposable tissue or the crease of the elbow. Dispose of used tissues immediately and then wash hands.

Food

It is recommended that facilities not prepare/provide meals or snacks for children, and that parents provide food for their children. "No sharing" policies between children or staff will be reinforced. This includes no sharing of food containers, such as shared pitchers of water or juice.

Facilities with a common dining area should alternate meal times between groups, to meet physical distancing requirements.

Napping and Sleeping Areas

Children will be arranged so they nap head to feet whenever possible. Blankets, mattresses, covers and pillow cases must not be shared, and must be laundered at least weekly, or more often if soiled.

Outdoor Play Areas

Until a directive is given to open municipal and school playground equipment (play sets), facilities are not permitted to use play sets (slides, swings, monkey bars, etc.) within their own outdoor play area. Once play sets are permitted, staff must ensure children are following good personal hygiene while on the equipment and that children wash their hands after playing on the equipment.

Shared toys are permitted such as bikes, balls and bats. Shared toys must be cleaned and disinfected between users.

Field Trips and Special Events

During the COVID-19 pandemic, field trips are not permitted. Holiday events, festivals and other activities such as birthdays that bring together parents and groups are not permitted.

Appendix A: Screening Questionnaire for COVID-19

FOR STAFF, CHILDREN, PARENTS/GUARDIANS AND VISITORS: PLEASE DO NOT ENTER THE FACILITY WITHOUT ANSWERING THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS

Note: Children or staff who have been identified as having seasonal allergies or who suffer from chronic runny nose/nasal congestion are not required to be excluded.

Name: _____ Child Care Facility: _____

For parents/guardians:

I, _____ (parent/guardian) am completing the screening questionnaire for the child described above.

1. Do you have:

- A. any of the 2 following symptoms: fever or signs of fever, new cough or worsening chronic cough, runny nose, headache, sore throat, new onset of fatigue, new onset of muscle pain, diarrhea or loss of taste or smell?

OR

- B. if a child, purple fingers or toes even as the only symptom?

If answered YES to either A or B, then you must stay home, contact 811, and cannot return until fully recovered. If tested, Public Health will inform the individual or parent (when child is involved) when isolation may be lifted. <https://www2.gnb.ca/content/dam/gnb/Departments/h-s/pdf/en/CDC/PosterCL.pdf>

2. If you have answered YES to any of the following below, then you must stay home and self-isolate for 14 days. If you develop symptoms, please refer to the [self-assessment link on the Government of New Brunswick webpage](#). If a parent or caregiver of a child and have direct patient contact work, go to Question 3.

- Have you or anyone in your household had close contact (face to face contact within 2 metres) with a confirmed case of COVID-19 within the last 14 days?
- Have you or anyone in your household returned from travel outside of New Brunswick within the last 14 days?
- You have been diagnosed with COVID-19 or are waiting to hear the results of a lab test for COVID-19.
- You may have been exposed to COVID-19 in the last 14 days.
- You have been told by public health that you may have been exposed to COVID-19.

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- 3. If you have direct patient contact work (e.g. Health Care Provider) and have answered YES to any of the following below, then you and your child must stay home and self-isolate for 14 days. If you develop symptoms, please refer to the [self-assessment](#) link on the Government of New Brunswick webpage.**
- a. Have you or anyone in your household had close contact (face to face contact within 2 metres) with a confirmed case of COVID-19 within the last 14 days, outside of the health care setting?
 - b. Have you or anyone in your household returned from travel outside of New Brunswick within the last 14 days?
 - c. You have been diagnosed with COVID-19 or are waiting to hear the results of a lab test for COVID-19.
 - d. You may have been exposed to COVID-19 in the last 14 days, outside of the health care setting.
 - e. You have been told by public health that you may have been exposed to COVID-19.
 - f. Have you had close contact with an individual who is suspect of COVID-19 in the last 14 days while providing direct patient care and you were not wearing proper Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)?

Name of screener: _____

Date: _____ **Time:** _____