

Winter Plan for Early Learning and Childcare Facilities

School age children

Effective January 4, 2022

The following is the Winter Plan 2022 for New Brunswick Early Learning and Childcare Facilities who serve school aged children. Throughout the winter months, Early Learning and Childcare Facilities may move in and out the following alert levels. If Early Learning and Childcare Facilities or communities are experiencing a high number of COVID-19 cases and an increase in transmission, Regional Public Health will work with Early Learning and Childcare Facilities to carry out a detailed risk assessment to determine if a move to stricter guidelines are required

The risks assessment looks at a number of factors including but not limited to:

- how prevalent cases are within the greater community;
- whether the case involves a presumed variant;
- how many close contacts the individual who tested positive has had and how early the case was detected;
- the layers of protection that were in place while they were at the facility such as masking or groups;
- the use of shared spaces between the individual who tested positive and others (entrances, common areas, buses, breakrooms, etc.); and
- the COVID-19 vaccination rate of the facility or greater community.

Note: If one new or worsening symptom develops, a child or staff member is not permitted to attend a child-care facility until they have a negative point-of-care rapid test (POCT).

If a child or staff member has a constant and recurring symptom, for instance such as seasonal allergies, they may continue to attend the childcare facility after they have received a negative POCT test. This test can be done one time for the same recurring symptom, as long as that symptom is not worsening and no new symptoms develop, at which point a retest will be necessary.

	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3
Groups of Children: Indoors	Children will be organized in groups of no more than 20 children while following the group sizes and adult to child ratio set out in regulations.	Same as Level 1	Same as Level 1

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	<p>Physical distance of two (2) metres between other groups is required.</p> <p>Masks are required for children and staff in all indoor areas of the facility. Masks may be removed when seated for eating and drinking.</p> <p>New children entering the facility will continue to be placed into a group that is age appropriate.</p> <p>Reconfiguration of groups should be limited to once per week to accommodate changes in numbers due to illness, vacation, etc.</p>		
<p>Groups of Children: Indoors in Common Areas (Bathrooms, Gymnasiums, Entrances etc.)</p>	<p>Physical distance of two (2) metres between groups is required.</p> <p>Masks are required for children and staff in all indoor areas of the facility.</p> <p>Masks may be removed when seated for eating and drinking.</p>	Same as Level 1	Same as Level 1
<p>Group of children; outdoors</p>	<p>Where possible, children will be organized in groups.</p> <p>Physical distancing is not required between groups.</p> <p>Masks are required when children and staff are outside with other groups.</p>	Same as Level 1	Same as Level 1

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	If physical distancing can be maintained between groups, masks may be removed.		
Drop off and Pick up	<p>It is recommended not to mix groups of children; they may be organized in smaller groups when the numbers are low at the beginning of the day and as they decrease at the end of the day. Mixed group cannot include infants and must not exceed the requirement for one educator. When a second educator is required the group must be separated.</p> <p>It is recommended, wherever possible, to maintain physical distancing of two (2) metres between children from different groups.</p> <p>Masks are required for children and staff when groups are mixed.</p> <p>Parents are required to wear their mask.</p>	<p>Children will remain in their groups.</p> <p>Masks are required for children and staff.</p> <p>Parents are not permitted inside the facility unless identified as essential.</p>	Same as Level 2
At Home Screening	<p>Children and staff will screen for symptoms at home every day.</p> <p>If one new or worsening symptom develops, a child or staff member is not permitted to attend a child-care facility until they have a negative point-of-care rapid test (POCT).</p> <p>If a child or staff member has a constant and recurring symptom,</p>	<p>Same as Level 1</p> <p>All children and staff may be required to undergo regular testing (POCT) at home as directed by Public Health.</p>	Same as Level 1

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	for instance such as seasonal allergies, they may continue to attend the childcare facility after they have received a negative POCT test. This test can be done one time for the same recurring symptom, as long as that symptom is not worsening and no new symptoms develop, at which point a retest will be necessary.		
Handwashing	<p>Proper handwashing is required for all children before and after outdoor play, before and after meals and after using the washroom.</p> <p>Staff will monitor children to ensure that they are washing their hands correctly.</p> <p>Signs will be posted throughout the facility to remind everyone to properly wash their hands.</p>	Same as Level 1	Same as Level 1
Cleaning and Disinfecting	Follow the regular cleaning and disinfecting guidelines.	Same as Level 1	<p>Same as Level 1</p> <p>Sharing materials and equipment will not be permitted unless the materials are cleaned and disinfected between use as much as possible.</p>
Transportation	<p>Transportation will be permitted.</p> <p>Masks are required for all children and staff.</p> <p>When possible, children are encouraged to sit in the same seats and with the same children.</p>	Same as Level 1	Same as Level 1

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Physical Activities	Physical activities are permitted. Masks are required for children and staff within their groups.	Same as Level 1	Same as Level 1 Sharing materials and equipment will not be permitted unless the materials are cleaned and disinfected between use as much as possible. Low intensity activities are required while indoors.
Music and Singing	Music and singing activities, as well as the use of wind instruments are permitted in groups. Masks are required for children and staff within their groups. Children will maintain a physical distance of four (4) metres (including instruments) when using a wind instrument. If distance cannot be followed, wind instruments will not be permitted. Children and staff should only participate in music and singing activities for a maximum of 30 consecutive minutes.	Same as Level 1 Wind instruments will not be permitted.	Same as Level 2
Concerts and Other Gathering	Concerts and other gatherings are permitted. Wherever possible it is highly recommended that these events are organized virtually. Physical distance of two (2) metres between groups of children is required.	Concerts and other gathering are permitted in virtual settings only. Physical distance of two (2) metres between other groups of children is required. Masks are required for all children over the age of two (2) and staff.	Concert and other gatherings are not permitted.

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	<p>Proof of vaccination will be required for all parents and visitors.</p> <p>Masks are required for all children over the age of two (2), staff, parents and visitors.</p> <p>Physical distancing of four (4) metres is required between groups of children and any parents or visitors.</p>		
Field Trips	<p>Indoor and outdoor field trips are permitted in groups.</p> <p>Children and staff must follow the Mandatory Order while on field trips.</p>	Field trips are not permitted	Same as Level 2
Parents	<p>Parents are permitted inside the facility.</p> <p>Masks are required.</p>	Parents are not permitted inside the facility unless identified as essential.	Same as Level 2
Visitors	<p>Visitors must provide proof of vaccination before entering the facilities.</p> <p>Masks are required.</p>	<p>Visitors are not permitted in the facility.</p> <p>Government of New Brunswick employees and individuals who are delivering early learning services for the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development are permitted in the facility.</p> <p>Masks are required.</p>	Same as Level 2

*This document complements the Guidelines for the Prevention and Control of Communicable Diseases in Early Learning and Childcare (ELC) Facilities.