



COVID-19 Guidelines

Home Child Care

INTRODUCTION AND PURPOSE

This document is intended to outline the changes to policy and procedure for Licensed Home Child Care and the Providers affiliated with Oxford Community Child Care to provide safe and healthy early learning and child care (ELCC) by fulfilling the requirements set by the Province of Ontario, Ministry of Education, Public Health and the Consolidated Municipal Service Manager (CMSM). We highly value our Home Child Care Providers and have great respect for their decision to pursue and maintain an affiliation with a highly regulated sector.

This document follows the of the guidance document provided by the Ministry of Education: Operational Guidance During Covid-19 Outbreak, Child Care Re-Opening, Version 4, November 2020.

This document does not replace the Child Care and Early Years Act, 2014 (CCEYA). All regulations and requirements of the CCEYA remain applicable and enforceable unless otherwise specifically stated in writing within this document. Southwestern Public Health directives must be followed, even if they contradict this document.

This document will be modified as applicable when these restrictions can be lifted and/or amended to reflect new directions provided at that time.

All policies and procedures in the Home Child Care Provider Manual remain in effect unless otherwise specifically stated in this Policy Supplement Booklet.

LICENSING REQUIREMENTS

Inspections

Program Advisors will be conducting monitoring visits along with regular licensing inspections. This may be completed using the traditional on-site method or virtually by video-conference or telephone. For on-site visits, Program Advisors will complete a pre-screen prior to arrival.

Program Advisors must complete the same screening process as everyone else including the temperature check. OCCC will provide a sample screening form for this purpose or Providers may create their own using the Provincial Covid-19 Screening tool. All visits are documented on an Essential Visitors Screening Log. Documentation of the screen and the outcome must be kept with the licensing documents.

Program Advisors are required to wear PPE while at the premise, specifically a medical mask and face shield. They will supply their own PPE. In the event they do not have PPE with them or the proper PPE, the Provider may refuse entrance until such time that they have the required PPE. Providers may require additional reasonable protocols for Program Advisors to follow, for example, hand washing upon entrance to the home.

The above also applies to your Home Child Care Consultant when attending at your premise.

Program Advisors are further required to follow all OCCC protocols as requested when onsite at the OCCC Administrative office.

Maximum Cohort Size

There are no changes to the maximum group sizes for Home Child Care.

Standard First Aid and CPR-C

All Home Child Care Providers are required to have a current Standard First Aid and CPR-C or above.

Criminal Reference Checks and Vulnerable Persons Screening

Criminal reference checks with vulnerable persons screening must be current for Providers, including the required 5 year renewals.

If members of the Provider's household, regular visitors or others who must fulfill this requirement cannot obtain the criminal reference check with vulnerable persons renewal documents due to significant backlog at Police Services AND reasonable efforts have been made to secure documents prior to the renewal date, additional measures may be

considered to allow for continuation of employment. Please note that this is for exceptional circumstances only and requires proof that application was made with sufficient time for the document to arrive. This exception does NOT apply to Providers.

Anyone that has not had a previous criminal reference check with vulnerable sector screen that is now required to have one, for example a child that has turned 19, the document is due as per the usual policy. There is no extension granted for this group.

Serious Occurrence Reporting

Please note that Serious Occurrence reporting requirements are changed by the Ministry of Education frequently. Please consult with the Child Care Administrator or Human Resources if you need clarification on reporting requirements.

A Serious Occurrence is required to be submitted within 24 hours when one of the following individuals has a confirmed case of COVID-19 only.

- a child who receives child care at a home child care premises or child care centre,
- a home child care provider,
- a person who is ordinarily a resident of a home child care premises (eg. the home provider's child, the home provider's spouse etc.; for complete definition please refer to the Home Child Care Licensing Manual)
- a person who is regularly at a home child care premises (eg. the home provider's friend who visits the premises once a week etc.; for complete definition please refer to the Home Child Care Licensing Manual),
- a home child care visitor,
- a staff member at a child care centre
- a student at a home child care premises or child care centre,

Serious Occurrences for a positive case of Covid-19 are reported to the Ministry as per regular serious occurrence reporting procedures. Both confirmed and suspected cases are reported to Southwestern Public Health.

Providers must report suspected or confirmed cases of Covid-19 to their OCCC Consultant as they would report any other serious occurrence. A report is then made to the Ministry of Education using the Child Care Licensing System.

Should the Public Health Inspector determine it is necessary to close a room or Centre as a result, this is also reportable as a Serious Occurrence.

Serious Occurrence Notification Forms are posted at each location, as applicable, for ten (10) business days as per regulation.

In-Person Meetings and Events

In-person meetings and events related to the provision of child care may resume, at the Provider's discretion, provided that physical distancing is maintained, public health restrictions are adhered to and medical masks and face shields are worn. Virtual meetings are preferred and should be explored prior to arranging in-person meetings.

OCCC is not hosting any meetings or events that include anyone from outside the organization at any of our locations to minimize potential exposure to staff. Exceptions to this require the expressed written consent of the Executive Director.

Should exceptional circumstances require an in-person meeting or event and that meeting or event needs to be rescheduled or cancelled, the person who organized and/or is hosting the meeting or event is responsible for ensuring that each participant is notified about the rescheduling or cancellation.

Students and Placements

OCCC may offer limited student placements in our programs at select locations. Students will be placed in one room only for each placement block. Post-Secondary placements from administrative disciplines that do not have direct child/client contact may be considered.

All staff and/or Provider policies apply equally to students unless otherwise noted.

Volunteers are strictly prohibited in Home Child Care.

Provider Training

Providers must review all the materials below and confirm on the attestation that this has been completed:

Putting on Mask and Eye Protection – Public Health Ontario:
<https://youtu.be/1YiLjpLXvg4>

Putting on Personal Protective Equipment – Public Health Ontario:
<https://www.publichealthontario.ca/-/media/documents/ncov/ipac/ppe-recommended-steps.pdf?la=en>

Taking off a gown and gloves – Public Health Ontario:
<https://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/videos/ipac-gowngloves-off>

How to Hand Wash – Public Health Ontario:
<https://youtu.be/o9hjmques72l>

How to Self-Monitor – Public Health Ontario:

<https://www.publichealthontario.ca/-/media/documents/ncov/factsheet-covid-19-self-monitor.pdf?la=en>

Additional Recommended Trainings are:

Putting on full PPE:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s2z1uM1fXN8>

Taking off full PPE:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=crGIUX3_4DA

How to Perform Hand Hygiene using alcohol based hand rub:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sDUJ4CAYhpA>

Additional trainings are in development for April 2021.

Parent Fees

OCCC is not increasing fees at this time. Fees will remain at the pre-Covid level until further notice. The Board of Directors reserves the right to increase fees, if necessary, to ensure financial stability of the organization.

OCCC is also encouraging Providers to not increase their private fees at this time however that is at the discretion of the Provider.

After September 1, 2020, the standard withdrawal fee of two weeks' notice applies to families who accept a space.

As per OCCC policy, fees are not charged for the waiting list or for priority or preferred access to the waiting list.

Fees are assessed by enrolment, not daily attendance. As such, fees are payable for absences of any reason. This includes Covid related absences. Fee credits for Covid related absences will only be assessed on a case-by-case basis if sufficient Provincial funding is provided to cover the absences.

Access to Child Care Spaces and Prioritizing Families

By order of the Province of Ontario, all Providers must allow parents 30 days without payment, to indicate whether or not they will return to their space when the Premise re-opens. After the thirty days expires, payments to hold the space are allowed regardless of whether or not the child attends.

For Providers who remained open during the Pandemic, the 30 day period started June 11, 2020 and ends on July 11, 2020.

For Providers who closed March 15 or later, the 30 day period starts on the day that you

notify the parent that the space is again available. As this date may vary for each family, Providers must keep meticulous records. It is highly recommended that Providers use written communication such as email with a read receipt and request for response.

If the Provider receives no response and no further communication from the parent, they must still keep the space available without payment until the 30 days expires. If the Parent contacts the Provider on day 30 and wants to return to the space, the Province has ordered that Providers must accept the child without penalty to the family.

All withdrawal notices received prior to the end of the 30 day period MUST be in writing and include the date the notice was received and the last day of care either signed by the parent or printed from the email received from the parent. This will give the Provider proof that the space was vacated and could be filled with a new child should a conflict arise.

The 30 day rules applies only to families who were receiving care when the Provider ceased their operation.

Failure to abide by the 30 day rule may result in stiff administrative penalties from the Province of \$1000 per day per child for each day of non-compliance.

Families in care as of the date of closure have priority to return to their spaces unless they provided written notice of withdrawal from the program.

In the event of confirmed vacancies, Providers will determine if the space is filled and by whom using the interview process. A confirmed vacant space is a space where written notice of withdrawal has been received and the parent is not waiting the allotted 30 days to decide if they will return to the program.

Applications for vacant spaces are processed through the OneList Waitlist or privately.

Liability and Insurance

All requirements under the CCEYA must be met in addition to the enhanced health and safety measures outlined in this document and by local public health.

Providers are responsible for consulting with their insurance advisor or legal counsel, if they wish, about any other considerations for providing Home Child Care during Covid-19.

HEALTH AND SAFETY REQUIREMENTS

Health and Safety Policies

Providers must follow the current policy and include the following additions and/or directions from the Province or Southwestern Public Health:

- Washing and disinfecting of toys and equipment used by all age groups must be done at least twice daily. Stuffed toys, dress up clothes and hard to clean toys must be removed. No group sensory bins or group water play. Individual, one-time-use sensory or water activities are permitted.
- Wash and disinfect visibly dirty toys and equipment immediately or remove from use until able to do so.
- Mouthed toys must be separated, cleaned and disinfected immediately after the child has finished using it.
- Cribs / cots / sleeping equipment must not be shared. They must be cleaned and disinfected at least weekly or when soiled. Linens and bedding may be washed weekly provided they are not shared and do not come into contact with other people.
- Outdoor equipment should not be shared and must be cleaned/disinfected daily.
- Disinfection of space / environmental cleaning will now include frequently touched surfaces to be cleaned at least twice per day. A sample chart is provided or Provider's may create their own.
- Use the Symptoms of Ill Health form to document illness for anyone including children, Providers and residents of the home.
- Play dates are prohibited. If attending at a public park, a minimum physical distance of 2m must be maintained between others using the space.
- Shared washrooms must be cleaned and disinfected after each use.

Cleaning the Home Child Care Premise

All Covid-19 enhanced cleaning will be recorded and logged in the Daily Log Book.

Cleaning is best done with warm soapy water using a quality dish soap then disinfected. A Lysol wipe or similar product will do the trick. If you are only using Lysol wipes, then one wipe is used for cleaning and a second wipe is needed for disinfecting.

Ensure the surface or item remains wet with the product for the required contact time. Additional wipes may be needed due to the fast drying properties before the contact time is achieved. Wipes may also become dry due to improper storage or during use.

For other disinfecting products, read and follow the manufacturer's label. Most natural products do not provide sanitation at the required level to be effective. Disinfectants must have a Drug Identification Number (DIN). A DIN is an 8-digit number given by Health

Canada that confirms it is approved for use in Canada.

For bleach disinfecting solutions, refer to the Southwestern Public Health website for proper mixing instructions. Bleach solutions must be freshly mixed daily.

Check the expiry dates of all products and discard any that have expired as per the manufacturer's instructions.

Masks and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

Medical masks and face shields are mandatory for all Providers and any adults on the Premise while care is being provided in accordance with the directive of the Ministry of Education. Exemptions to mandatory masks may be assessed on a case-by-case basis. Exemptions to the face shield requirement are under exceptional circumstances only.

Googles or approved safety glasses that meet specific criteria (clear side shields, brow bridges and proper fit) may be substituted for face shields.

Masks are required for all children attending care that are in grade 1 and up. Masks must be worn while indoors including hallways. Masks may be removed when outdoors only when a 2m/6' distance is maintained. Parent/Guardians are responsible for providing masks for their children.

Masks and face shields are required outside unless a minimum distance of 2m/6' is maintained. Due to the spontaneous need for close interactions outside and the unpredictability of children approaching, it is recommended that masks and/or face shields are worn outside. If a child requires assistance, the mask and face shield must be put on prior to providing that assistance.

Cloth masks are acceptable for children only. Providers should consider asking parents to supply extra masks for their child in case the mask from school is soiled or otherwise not in acceptable condition. A safe method of storing the mask when not being worn is required. Other types of face coverings may be permissible after discussion with the Provider, the Home Child Care Consultant and in consultation with the child's health care professional.

Masks are encouraged for all children aged 2 and up but are not mandatory. Masks are NOT recommended for children under the age of 2.

Exemptions for wearing masks are made for a variety of reasons. Providers and parents

must discuss their individual situations together and with the Home Child Care Consultant.

Reasonable exceptions to the requirement to wear masks are permitted. Exceptions to wearing a mask indoors may include circumstances where a physical distance of at least 2m/6' can be maintained, where a child cannot tolerate wearing a mask and/or medical conditions. For Providers, exceptions to this requirement are when Providers are eating, in a personal vehicle that is not used for their child care services, off premises when not providing care or between closing and opening hours.

It may be difficult to properly put on a mask and shield without contamination after having removed them, especially while outside. Providers should consider limiting the number of times that PPE is donned and doffed for their own protection and that of the children.

Hands must be washed before AND after donning and doffing a mask.

The Province has indicated that they will supply both items for Providers however Providers must have a back-up supply in the event that orders do not arrive or items need replacing and for their adult family members. Not having provincially supplied PPE is not an acceptable reason for not wearing the required PPE. A non-compliance will be cited.

Hand Washing

Frequent and proper handwashing with soap and water remains the best defense.

Providers are encouraged to incorporate additional planned hand washing times for children and teach/support proper hand washing techniques. Singing is not permitted at this time.

A pea-sized amount of alcohol based hand sanitizer should only be used, if necessary, before children enter the home. Children should immediately wash their hands upon entry. Hand sanitizer may be used as an alternative when hand washing facilities are not available. Ensure that the product meets the minimum 70% alcohol requirement and has a DIN number. Do not use hand sanitizer on children under the age of 2.

Attendance Records

Children's attendance records will be kept following normal procedures. Parents must still sign their child in and out of the program using the OCCC Attendance sheet provided. Ensure there are sufficient pens for each family and disinfect them after each use.

It is essential that a visitors' log be kept by Providers for contact tracing in the event of a suspected or positive case of Covid-19 in the home. We will provide a sample form for this purpose. Logs must include the time of arrival, departure and contact information.

While non-essential visitors should not be permitted, it may be necessary to have maintenance workers at your home or, if you have a child with special needs, the Resource Consultant from ChildinU. Everyone entering the premise must be screened and recorded in the visitor's log. All boxes on the form MUST be completed. Keep all the documentation with the licensing materials.

Attendance records and Essential Visitor Logs must be kept up-to-date and provided to Southwestern Public Health within 24 hours of confirmation of a positive case of Covid-19 and/or outbreak to facilitate contact tracing.

SCREENING, TESTING AND SYMPTOMS OF ILLNESS

Screening for Symptoms

All Home Child Care Providers and those ordinarily residents/regularly at the home child care premise must be screened and temperature checked each day PRIOR to children arriving. A screening chart will be used to document results. Providers with a temperature equal to or greater than 37.8 degrees Celsius will not be permitted to operate under any circumstances.

All children, parents/guardians, visitors, Home Child Care Consultants and Ministry Program Advisors must be screened prior to entering the home. To minimize the amount of screening and documentation, it is highly recommended that Providers screen and accept children at the door, not allowing parents/guardians and non-essential visitors to enter the home.

All children must pass the screening and have their temperature taken prior to being admitted to the Home. Children that do not pass the screening and/or have a temperature equal to or greater than 37.8 degrees Celsius are not permitted to stay.

Thoroughly wash your hand between each child/family.

Families waiting must maintain a 6' distance from the door or wait in their car until the Provider is ready for them to enter the screening area.

Failing the screening is no longer reportable to Southwestern Public Health.

Refer to the most recent Covid-19 Decision Tree for Schools and Child Care on the Southwestern Public Health website for guidance.

From the Ministry of Education Operational Guidance V5:

A more rigorous and cautious approach has been adopted to support a more comprehensive and enhanced school and child care screening program. Child care centre staff, **providers**, placement students, and children with any new or worsening symptom of COVID-19, as indicated in COVID-19 School and Child Care Screening Tool, even those with only one symptom, must stay home until:

- They receive a negative COVID-19 test result
- They receive an alternative diagnosis by a health care professional, or
- It has been 10 days since their symptom onset and they are feeling better.

In addition, if any household members are experiencing any new COVID-19 symptoms and/or are waiting for COVID-19 test results after experiencing symptoms, the child, child care centre staff, **provider** or placement student must not attend child care.

The Ministry of Health updated guidance to public health units regarding COVID-19 variants of concern, requiring all household contacts of symptomatic individuals to quarantine.

All asymptomatic household contacts of symptomatic individuals are required to quarantine until the symptomatic household member:

- receives a negative COVID-19 test result, or
- receives an alternative diagnosis by a health care professional

If the symptomatic individual tests positive, or is not tested and does not receive an alternative diagnosis from a health care professional, the symptomatic individual must isolate (including from household members) for 10 days from symptom onset, and all household contacts must isolate until 14 days from their last contact with the symptomatic individual.

Anyone who is symptomatic, does not pass screening, or has been advised to self-isolate by the local public health unit must not be permitted to attend the program (this includes children, child care centre staff, placement students, **home child care providers and those ordinarily resident/regularly at the home child care premises**).

Persons who test positive for COVID-19 should follow the guidance of their local public health unit and health care professional regarding direction for isolation and returning to a child care setting. The individual cannot return until cleared by their public health unit. Note that individuals do not need to provide a medical note or proof of negative result to return to the program.

Please reference pages 15-20 of the Ministry of Education's Operational Guidance for Child Care During Covid-19 Outbreak, V5, March 2021 for additional details if required.

<h3>Testing Requirements</h3>

When a child, Provider and/or those ordinarily residents/regularly at the home child care premise are demonstrating symptoms and/or has a temperature equal to or greater than 37.8 degrees Celsius, they are referred to Southwestern Public Health and/or the Provincial online screening tool for next steps.

If the Provider is tested and receives a NEGATIVE test result, they may return to offering child care after 24 hours if symptoms are improving and all instructions from Southwestern Public Health have been followed.

If the Provider receives a POSITIVE test result, they must be excluded from the program for 14 days after the onset of symptoms and/or clearance has been received from Southwestern Public Health.

When a Child or Home Child Care Provider and/or those ordinarily residents/regularly at the home child care premise Demonstrates Symptoms of Illness

Providers and/or those ordinarily residents/regularly at the home child care premise and children who are symptomatic or have been advised to self-isolate by the local public health unit, must not offer care or attend care. Further, if any person who resides in the home, including the Provider, and/or any persons who regularly attend at the premise, become symptomatic and/or test positive for Covid-19, the Provider must contact Southwestern Public Health for the steps to be followed.

Children must not attend if they are sick, even if symptoms resemble a mild cold. Home Child Care Providers must not provide care if they are sick, even if symptoms resemble a mild cold.

Symptoms include but are not limited to:

- Fever
- Cough, new or worsening
- Shortness of breath
- Sore throat
- Runny nose
- Nasal congestion
- Headache
- General feeling of unwellness

Please refer to the Covid-19 Decision Tree on the Southwestern Public Health website for children and the Provincial online screening tool for adults for the most recent guidelines.

Children:

Should a child become ill while attending care, they must be immediately isolated and parents contacted to pick-up. Children over the age of two (2) should be provided with a disposable mask for whatever degree they will tolerate. Do not force them to wear the mask. If needed, provide the child with tissues and a garbage container that has been lined with a plastic bag. Pass the child the tissues individually to avoid contaminating the entire box. If the box becomes contaminated, it must be disposed of regardless of how many tissues are left.

After being picked up, anything the child has touched must be cleaned and

disinfected. Anything that cannot be wash and disinfected such as puzzles or books must be removed and stored in a sealed container for a minimum of 7 days. Tie the garbage with the tissues inside and dispose in the outside garbage can.

Parents or their emergency contact must attend to pick up the child immediately when called. All families must have a back-up plan in the event that their child, Provider or a resident of the premise becomes ill and care is temporarily suspended.

Please consult with Southwestern Public Health for further directions.

Providers:

A Provider that becomes ill during the day, must try to keep a minimum of 2m/6' from the children if they cannot isolate themselves. Wearing a medical mask and face shield at this point is required until at least after the children have been picked up. Providers must call parents to pick up their child immediately.

Providers must notify their Home Child Care Consultant of any illness or positive test results for Covid-19 for themselves and/or anyone who ordinarily resides at the premise and/or regularly attends at the premise. The Consultant is then required to notify Southwestern Public Health and the Ministry of Education as a Serious Occurrence. Southwestern Public Health will provide direction as to the next steps. It is possible that they will close the home for the duration of the illness and/or require Covid-19 testing.

OUTBREAK MANAGEMENT

An outbreak may be declared by Southwestern Public Health when there are 2 or more lab-confirmed Covid-19 cases within a 14 day period that have an epidemiological link where at least one case could have reasonably been acquired their infection in the home child care setting. The declaration of an outbreak is at the sole discretion of Southwestern Public Health.

Southwestern Public Health (SWPH) makes the determination of any linkages and declaration of outbreaks. Providers and OCCC are responsible for working with SWPH and providing them with the information needed including contact tracing information and attendances.

Southwestern Public Health will provide direction to Providers and OCCC on next steps. These steps may include closure of the home or if specific groups of children must be excluded and for how long. All directive of SWPH must be followed.

Southwestern Public Health conducts all contact tracing and provides families with the required information.

OPERATIONAL GUIDANCE

Communication with Families

Families will be emailed a Covid-19 Policy Guidelines for Home Child Care with all new registrations. Current families will be alerted to updated policies, procedures and expectations via email and/or the Provider and advised to visit our website to review the most recent copy of the Covid-19 Policy Guidelines for Home Child Care. OCCC reserves the right to maintain these policies, procedures and expectations after the restrictions have been lifted at its sole discretion. A print copy of the Covid-19 Policy Guidelines for Home Child Care will be available upon request.

Parents will be required to sign a Covid-19 Parent Agreement specific to the Covid-19 expectations indicating their understanding and agreement to the new terms of service prior to returning or starting care.

Providers are encouraged to use technology to communicate with their families and minimize face-to-face contact as much as possible.

Drop-Off and Pick-up Procedures

Parents should not be permitted to enter the home unless absolutely necessary. If Providers are permitting entrance to the home, Parents/families must be screened and temperature check and documented as an essential visitor. They are also required to wear a mask.

Families must maintain a 2m/6' distance while waiting to come in. Use a distance marker such as a plant or outdoor décor for this purpose. Alternatively, families should wait in their car until the Provider is ready to receive them.

Complete the screen and take the child's temperature. A sample screening chart is provided. Ensure that parents sign the attendance sheet with initials and times in/out as usual. Have individual pens and clipboards available that are only for this purpose. Disinfect the pens and clipboards after use. If only one clipboard is available, ensure it is sanitized between families.

If the child screens as fine to enter, accept the child with as minimal physical contact as possible. Put their things in the designated area. Wash your hands. Disinfect the thermometer before using on the next child. Use a no-touch thermometer if possible.

If the child has one or more symptoms and/or a temperature that is equal to or greater than 37.8 degrees Celsius or did not pass the screening tool, do not allow the child or family to enter the premise. Refer to the Covid-19 Decision Tree for School and Child Care on the Southwestern Public Health website. Refer the family to Southwestern Public Health. Wash your hands. Wash and disinfect any surfaces that the child or parent may have touched like a door bell, handle. Contact the Home Child Care Consultant. Failed

screenings are not reportable to Southwestern Public Health.

Children's personal belongings should be only what is absolutely necessary and kept in a labelled backpack in a designated area until needed. Families should provide a change of clothing, diapers, wipes and other needs in quantities for the entire week or longer to avoid constant contact with backpacks and disinfecting. All stuffed toys are prohibited. A personal blanket is allowed provided that the blanket is immediately washed upon arrival, is only used with the intended child for sleep time and stays at the Provider's home. It may not go back and forth between homes.

Strollers must be kept outside the home if allowed to stay on the premises.

For pick-up, parents should provide the Provider with an approximate time of arrival so that the Provider may be ready. Each Provider must develop and communicate their pick-up procedure with families and share with their Home Child Care Consultant.

Communication with families remains a very important part of the program. Providers should consider using telephone and technology to continue to provide communication with families about their child's day and to exchange important information.

Non-Essential Visitors

To minimize the risks, there should be no non-essential visitors at your home. Anyone that does enter the home must complete the screening form and the visitor's log including the time of arrival, departure and contact information.

Ministry staff, the fire inspector, public health may enter the premise at any reasonable time as per the CCEYA. They must also complete the screen and visitor's log prior to entry. Essential visitors must wear PPE consisting of a medical mask and face shield while on the premises.

Space Set-Up and Physical Distancing

A welcoming and caring environment are the hallmark of Licensed Home Child Care. The environment is still your home!

Providers should consider procedures that support physical distancing as best as possible while still meeting the requirements of the CCEYA. The number of rooms that children in care have access to should be minimize, when possible, to reduce the amount of required cleaning and disinfecting.

Play space are arranged to naturally encourage physical distancing knowing that children will come together to play. This is OK! For large group activities, children are provided with a visible cue to where their spot to sit it. As many options and opportunities for distancing as possible will be offered without compromising the foundation of quality home child care.

While most Providers do not have a gymnasium in their home, there may be large open play space available. Children and Providers should not be engaged in moderate to vigorous physical activity indoors. When moderate to vigorous physical activity takes place outdoors, children and Providers should maintain physical distancing. High intensity activities should not be offered.

Efforts should be made to limit the use of shared equipment. Shared equipment should be disinfected regularly and children and Providers should practice proper hand hygiene before and after participating in physical activity and equipment use.

Program Statement

Providers are not required to update their Program Statements.

Programming and Restrictions

Increasing the number of Provider-led activities while still allowing for choice and child direction, will help with physical distancing.

Select toys and materials that are easily washed and disinfected. Any toy or item that cannot be easily cleaned and disinfected should not be used. All stuffed animals, dramatic play clothes, pillows, blankets, soft items and group sensory play are forbidden.

Sensory play may be offered if it is individual only and disposed of after the activity. For example, individual balls of playdoh with disposable popsicle sticks for accessories. The materials cannot be labelled and stored for another day. One time use only.

When arranging cots for sleeping, increase the distance between each child. Do not allow children to share a cot/bed, linens, blankets etc. Place children toe-to-toe if space is limited.

Toys and equipment must be cleaned at least twice per day. Mouthed toys must be removed immediately for cleaning and disinfecting.

Children's personal items such as soothers and sippy cups must be clearly labelled and not shared.

Outdoor Play

Outdoor play is a vital component of the program. Providers will continue to play outdoors with continued consideration for physical distancing.

Public play structures and community play equipment are prohibited however walks and attending at public parks is allowed if physical distancing is maintained.

Outdoor toys and equipment must be washed and disinfected daily.

Children and Providers must wash their hands before going outside and immediately upon return inside.

Sunscreen may be applied as per the Provider's policy. Providers may provide assistance to apply sunscreen provided that they wash their hands before and after each application.

Interactions and Relationships

Connection and relationships are vital for healthy child development. Providers may continue to hold children to comfort, bottle feed infants, settling for sleep and as needed . The requirement for a blanket and/or barrier between the Provider and the child has been removed however OCCC recommends that Providers continue the practice.

Providers must launder each blanket after each use with each child. Do not re-use a blanket that hasn't been washed, even with the same child. Yes, there will be a LOT of laundry. Hand washing between each child is essential.

Food Provision

Meals and snacks will be pre-plated and portioned for all children. Family style service or self-serve is strictly prohibited. The following common practices are also not permitted at this time:

- common food plates for items such as bread slices or veggie sticks
- shared utensils and condiments such as salt shakers
- Shared serving spoons, tongs after pre-plated meals have been served
- Sharing food and utensils

There should be no food provided by families for their child unless medically required. Special provisions must be established by each Provider for the handling and storage of special diets.

For infants not yet eating food supplied by the Provider, food must be supplied in the original jar, unopened. The outside of prepared bottles will be carefully washed with warm water and dish soap, patted dry with disposable paper towel and stored in the fridge. Do not spray disinfectant onto food products or storage containers.

All group baking, cooking and programming that involves food is strictly prohibited.

Children and Providers will wash their hands before and after eating. Providers will also

wash their hands before preparing food.

Children should be spaced as far apart as possible for meals and snacks if it is safe to do so and maintain proper supervision. The supervision and safety of children is paramount while eating.

Provision of Special Needs Resources (SNR) Services

ChildinU may continue to provide in-person services to children in Homes affiliated with OCCC programs, where appropriate. If there are no children in care on the Consultants caseload, then in-person contact is not necessary and should be avoided to minimize the number of different people in the home. Telephone and virtual connections are also available.

All ChildinU staff must be screened using the Essential Visitors Screening Form and sign in/out using the Essential Visitors log. ChildinU staff that do not pass the screening will not be permitted entrance to the home. ChildinU staff must provide their own PPE that includes medical mask and face shield.

Families will be informed of the potential exposure to ChildinU staff on the Covid-19 Parent Agreement and in this document.