

Child Care Reopening: Frequently Asked Questions

Screening

Are we to fill out the screening tool for each child, each day, or do we just ask the questions?

The Ontario COVID-19 School and Child Care Screening Tool should be completed for each child and visitor every day. This can be completed electronically or on paper

Does the parent take the child's temperature or does the screener?

Taking temperatures is not required.

Are we required to take parents' temperatures during the screening?

Taking temperatures is not required.

If one sibling has symptoms and cannot come to child care, can the other siblings still attend if they don't have symptoms?

Other siblings will be able to attend as long as they remain asymptomatic, and have received no direction from public health to self-isolate.

If a child does not pass screening, what steps do we take?

1. Inform the parent that the child cannot enter child care.
2. Direct parent to contact their health care provider or Lambton Public Health for further direction.
3. Provide parent with "[Your Child is Sick](#)" resource

What happens if the child has received fever reducing medication in the last 5 hours?

As long as the parent can provide an explanation for the use of the medication (i.e. teething, other pain the child often has, etc.) they can attend child care.

Are staff members to be rescreened if they leave for lunch?

No, staff only need to be screened on a daily basis.

Should parents or staff change their clothes between work and home and picking up children?

There is no requirement for anyone to shower and change clothes before picking up their children.

Environment Set-Up

Can highchairs be shared within a room or should they be designated to each child?

If you are able to designate one to each child it would be beneficial. If that is not an option, make sure they are disinfected between each child's use.

Can we still have carpets in the rooms?

Carpets can remain in classrooms. We recommend each carpet be vacuumed after children have gone home for the day. (HEPA filter preferred)

What do we do about shared washrooms? Can both groups use this area and if so what are the recommendations?

If bathrooms must be shared, they must be disinfected between each cohort use. If you can designate certain toilets and sinks to each group that would be beneficial.

What happens when your outdoor area is basically only sand and dirt?

Make sure everyone is performing proper hand hygiene.

How do parents pick up children at the end of the day?

Come up with a process that allows for staff to bring the child to the parent. Each centre may look different. Call Lambton Public

Health for an individual consultation if needed.

Programming

Can water play be done outside if conducted with a sprinkler?

Sprinklers are permitted. They are a great alternative for water play. Water tables are not recommended at this time.

Can outside sandboxes be used if we create individual spaces for children to play?

At this time we are discouraging the use of sandboxes or any sensory play. However if the sand pit is large (not a sand box) and you are able to physical distance the children, they are permitted to be used. Toys should be disinfected, and sand should be raked between cohorts

Can we do sensory play if it is individual (for example, each child has their own bag of play dough)?

Sensory play can be conducted as long as it is individualized and no sharing of the same material. Indoor and outdoor sandboxes and water tables are not to be used at this time.

Are we allowed to sing?

The guidance states that singing is not recommended at this time.

Employees

What about staff who have a medical condition such as allergies, chronic headaches, etc? Will they be allowed to work? How will this be determined?

Key words on the screening tool will be “new or worsening symptoms” for the individual. If a staff member or parent indicates allergy symptoms are completely normal for them/child and there is absence of a fever; they will be allowed to enter the centre. In regards to headaches, if the headache is not normal for staff, it should be taken seriously and the staff member should not come to work until they have consulted public health

and followed their recommendations. Staff and parents should be following the recommendations of the Ontario COVID-19 School and Child Care Screening tool.

Is the screener always the same person or do staff rotate?

This would be an employer decision. If the staff have to change out they need to each have their own PPE.

Can the screener be different in the morning and afternoon?

This would be an employer decision. There should be one screener at a time, but they can interchange based on shifts. All screeners must be provided training on the screening process, supplied with proper PPE, and follow the policy and procedures.

Is the staff that comes into the program to clean included in the cohort?

If the person is only coming in to clean the classroom they do not have to be included in the cohort. To be excluded from the cohort the staff person must don a surgical mask and eye protection and have no interaction with the children or staff in the room.

Can floater staff be shared between cohorts?

- Supervisors and/or designates should limit their movement between rooms, doing so when absolutely necessary.
- Supply/replacement staff should be assigned to a specific group so as to limit staff interaction with multiple groups of children.
- Sharing staff is not recommended as it is not best practice; however, if operationally and in emergency situations, there is no other choice and staff need to work in more than one cohort the following needs to take place:
 - Documentation of the need to share staff and who has been shared.
 - Date(s) sharing occurred
 - Locations staff worked at

- Start and end time of crossover
- Staff should don and doff PPE (new mask and clean/disinfected eye protection) appropriately when moving between spaces.
- If an outbreak occurs at one of the locations that shared staff works within, Lambton Public Health must be notified and all staff cross over must stop immediately.

What happens if your centre does not have a designated break room?

It would be fine to leave the building for a break. If you can go outside that is a good choice. The main idea is that you need to [physical distance](#) from your coworkers while taking your break and/or eating your meal.

What happens if we are working in a school alone and we develop symptoms?

Employers will need to create a procedure for staff working alone. There needs to be a process for children to be picked up or another staff to relieve the staff person who is symptomatic. If a staff person develops symptoms they should immediately don a mask, perform hand hygiene and contact their supervisor. Lambton Public Health should also be contacted for further direction.

What are the rules for call-in staff working between sites?

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- Sharing staff is not recommended as it is not best practice; however, if operationally and in emergency situations, there is no other choice and staff need to work in more than one cohort the following needs to take place:
 - Documentation of the need to share staff and who has been shared.
 - Date(s) sharing occurred
 - Locations staff worked at

- Start and end time of crossover
- Staff should don and doff PPE (new mask and clean/disinfected eye protection) appropriately when moving between spaces.
- If an outbreak occurs at one of the locations that shared staff works within, Lambton Public Health must be notified and all staff cross over must stop immediately.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

Does the screener wear the same PPE for the duration of daily screening?

There is no indication to change out the PPE for the screener unless it becomes soiled or the mask starts to get wet. If the mask becomes wet the integrity of it is reduced.

Do we need to put on a new gown between each child screened?

A gown is optional for the screener. If you choose to wear one it does not need to be changed between each child screened. A gown is most important when you are caring for a sick child or you are cleaning up bodily fluids

If you are changing a diaper and it is loose stool, do you need to put on full PPE?

Follow your current diapering practice, so wearing gloves if loose stool is present. If the child has loose stool; perform hand hygiene, doff your mask and eye protection, perform hand hygiene, and don a new mask and eye protection.

Can we bring and use our own reusable mask?

Staff are now required to wear the medical grade mask and face shields provided by the Ministry of Education. Goggles may be used in replacement of a face shield.

If you wear prescription glasses are goggles necessary?

In that situation we would recommend a face shield as it would also protect the sides of your face.

Do after hours staff (i.e. cleaners) need to wear PPE?

If there is no one in the room, wearing a mask would not be necessary.

Exclusion/Reporting

If a child does not pass the screening, when are they able to return?

Follow the recommendations given by the Ontario COVID-19 School and Child Care Screening Tool.

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Can children be on medication while attending child care?

Yes, it would be a discussion with the parents so you know what symptoms are new and what symptoms are typical for the child.

Does a child need a doctor's note to return to care?

Lambton Public Health is not requesting that providers request a doctor's note in order for a child to be able to return to care.. If a doctor's note is provided by the parent, direction from the physician should be followed

Do we report to Lambton Public Health every time a child has a fever?

Operators do not need to report every fever to Lambton Public Health. Operators must report any suspect/confirmed COVID-19 cases to Lambton Public Health as per the Health Protection and Promotion Act

Are there any restrictions for out-of-province or "hot spot" travel?

There is no direction from public health on isolating upon return from travelling within Canada. The child can return to daycare as long as they pass the Ontario COVID-19 School and Child Care Screening.

Resources

Do you have any templates of policies I should be using?

Policies and procedures are included in the [Lambton County COVID-19 Child Care Operations Manual](#). You can use these policies and procedures or you can create your own using these as a guide.

Examples include:

- Cleaning and Disinfection
- PPE
- Exclusion of Ill children and staff
- Outbreak Management
- Screening
- Hand Hygiene