



Childcare Centre Enteric Outbreak Control Measures

Communication	Suspect	Confirmed
Communicate information about outbreak to all staff and parents/caregivers (MOH, p. 25).	☐	☐
Provide parents/caregivers with a fact sheet or information from the Diseases webpage on the Health Unit's website if appropriate.	☐	☐
Advise parents/caregivers to contact the childcare centre if their child becomes ill at home and report number of episodes.	☐	☐
Notify visitors of the potential risk of being exposed to illness at the childcare centre. This may include posting signs at entrances, indicating that the facility is experiencing an outbreak (MOH, p. 47, 66).	☐	☐
Complete separate line listing for children and staff daily. Fax to the Health Unit by 11am to 705-482-0670 .	☐	☐
Fax/email a copy of the menu for the 7 days prior to the onset of symptoms in the first case to 705-482-0670 .	☐	☐
Infection Prevention and Control (IPAC) Measures		
Reinforce the importance of good hand washing when coming to the centre, after using the washroom and before eating. Staff should also wash their hands after all diaper changes, after assisting with toileting, after removing gloves, before handling food, and frequently throughout the day (MOH, p. 46).	☐	☐
Hand washing facilities should be checked to ensure that running water, supply of soap in a dispenser, and paper towels or hand dryers are available and accessible for use (MOH, p. 47).	☐	☐
If hand washing facilities are not available and hands are not visibly soiled, alcohol-based hand rub (ABHR) with at least 70% alcohol can be used. Young children should only use it under adult supervision (MOH, p. 26, Leduc, p.148).	☐	☐
Discourage sharing of any food, drinks, or utensils (MOH, p. 49).	☐	☐
Provide disposable gloves to staff for diapering, toileting, cleaning up body fluids, and soiled clothing/bedding. See diaper procedures on the Health Unit's website .	☐	☐
Move ill children to a separate area, under supervision, away from those who are well until they can be picked up by their parent/guardian (MOH, p. 25).	☐	☐
Exclude symptomatic children and staff from the childcare centre until 48 hours after symptoms have resolved or guidelines based on causative agent (PIDAC, 2012 p. 13, 15, 78; MOH, p. 36, 88-89).	☐	☐
Cohort staff to work in only one room as much as possible. Keep children from affected rooms separate from children in rooms with no illness as much as possible (MOH, p. 29, 36, 41), including during pick up and drop off times.	☐	☐
Staff, students, or volunteers who work at other healthcare facilities, childcare centres, and food premises should advise their employers that they worked in a facility in outbreak to determine if they should continue working in multiple places (MOH, p. 68).	☐	☐
If dietary staff become ill while working, discard all ready-to-eat food they prepared while on shift (MOH, p. 89).	☐	☐
Environmental Cleaning and Disinfection		
Continue cleaning/sanitizing practices in food preparation areas as previously outlined by your Public Health Inspector.	☐	☐
Increase routine cleaning and disinfection of common touch items such as door handles, railings, light switches, toilets, sinks, and handles to at least twice daily (MOH, p. 38-40).	☐	☐
Promptly clean and disinfect surfaces contaminated by bodily fluids. Immediately cover spillage with dry disposable paper towels (York Region Public Health, p. 14).	☐	☐
Hard surfaces should be thoroughly cleaned with soap, hot water, and a single use cloth then wiped down with a suitable disinfectant (e.g., Accelerated hydrogen peroxide product and allow for contact time indicated on the product or sodium hypochlorite solution followed by a rinse of the area/object). Mix fresh bleach solutions daily, verify concentrations with appropriate testing agents (i.e., test strips). See the Health Unit's website for information on cleaning and disinfection for daycares. List disinfectant being used: _____	☐	☐
Upholstered furniture, rugs, or carpets contaminated with body fluids are difficult to clean and disinfect. Consult the manufacturers for instructions on cleaning. Steam clean as soon as possible. Consider only using cleanable, non-porous surfaces/equipment (MOH, p. 38-39).	☐	☐



Soiled clothing should be put in a sealed plastic bag and sent home with parents (York Region Public Health, 2024, p. 37).	☐	☐
Play clothing or costumes, linens, and non-disposable mop heads should be washed on a hot cycle with detergent and hot air dried. Mops and cloths used for disinfecting or diapering should be washed separately. (Canadian Pediatric Society, 158).	☐	☐
Toys in an outbreak affected area should be cleaned and disinfected at least daily. Consider removing soft/plush toys that cannot be easily cleaned from play area for the duration of the outbreak (York Region Public Health, 2024, p. 63).	☐	☐
Toys that are mouthed or handled by a child who becomes ill should be removed from use until they have been cleaned and disinfected. Read product label to see if final rinse is required. Reducing the toy inventory during an outbreak can be helpful to monitor and clean toys efficiently (York Region Public Health, 2024, p. 63).	☐	☐
Activities		
Suspend social activities, water activities, and field trips, as appropriate. These can be discussed with the Health Unit.	☐	☐
Discontinue use of sensory play equipment, play dough, sand, and water tables until the outbreak is declared over (York Region Public Health, 2024, p. 63).	☐	☐
Laboratory Testing		
Parents/guardians may have ill children assessed by a healthcare provider. If specimens are collected the outbreak number should be placed on the specimen where possible (MOH, p. 37).	☐	☐

References

Leduc, D. (Eds.). (2015). *Well Beings: A Guide to Health in Child Care, 3rd Ed (revised)*. Canadian Pediatric Society: Ottawa, Ontario.

Ministry of Health (MOH). (February 2025). Recommendations for Outbreak Prevention and Control in Institutions and Congregate Living Settings. Retrieved from: <https://www.ontario.ca/files/2025-02/moh-recommendations-for-outbreak-prevention-and-control-in-institutions-and-clc-en-2025-02-28.pdf>

Provincial Infectious Diseases Advisory Committee (PIDAC). (2012). Routine Practices and Additional Precautions in All Health Care Settings, 3rd Edition. Retrieved from: <https://www.publichealthontario.ca/-/media/documents/b/2012/bp-rpap-healthcare-settings.pdf>

York Region Public Health. (2024). *A Public health guide for Child Care Providers*. Retrieved from: <https://www.york.ca/media/76726/download?attachment>