

WESTERN DAY CARE CENTRE

COVID-19 RECOVERY POLICIES updated September 19, 2022

Protocols for Safe Child Care during the Recovery Period of the Covid Pandemic

Group sizes

Group sizes have resumed to pre-Covid capacity

Infants – 3:1 ratio – 10 babies

Toddlers – 5:1 – 10 toddlers

Preschool – 8:1 – 16 preschoolers

Staffing

Each group consists of:

- Educator A – works 7:45 AM – 4:30 PM
- Educator B – works 8:45 AM – 5:30 PM
- Infant Educator C – works 8:15 AM – 5:00 PM (or 8:00 AM – 4:45 PM as needs dictate)

Working with the Local Public Health

The Middlesex and London Health Unit has resumed pre-Covid policies and recommendations.

Cleaning and disinfecting policies and procedures

Western Day Care Centre will utilize recommended cleaning practice to ensure a sanitary environment for children, families and staff. Enhanced cleaning measures may include cleaning and disinfecting more the recommendations of the Health Unit. (i.e. – twice a week as opposed to once when time allows)

Cleaning and Disinfection Frequency Requirements

Furniture and equipment needs to be disinfected weekly. (Infants – daily)

Toys and board books need to be cleaned and disinfected weekly. (Infants – daily)

Outdoor toys need to be cleaned and disinfected weekly. (Infants – daily)

Mouthed toys will continue to be cleaned and disinfected before being used again.

A. Gloves when Cleaning/Disinfecting

Western Day Care Centre will provide staff with the necessary gloves/protective equipment when required to mix bleach for the purpose of cleaning or disinfecting – nitrile or rubber gloves, goggles and protective aprons. Also, employees must wear rubber gloves when immersing toys in diluted disinfectant when toy washing

Guidance on the Use of Masks and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

Masks are not recommended for children, particularly those under the age of two.

Masks are not required in the centre at the current time. Everyone's right to wear or not wear a mask will be respected.

Note: MLHU recognizes that some individuals may have medical reasons that inhibit them from wearing masks. Notes for medical exemptions are not required.

Hand Hygiene

Western Day Care Centre will ensure that all staff maintain proper hand hygiene to minimize the spread of germs and contamination. Staff will also ensure that all children maintain proper hygiene and provide additional opportunities throughout the day for handwashing routines with the children.

Hand Hygiene is a general term referring to any action of hand cleaning. Hand hygiene relates to the removal of visible soil and removal or killing of transient microorganisms from the hands. Hand hygiene may be accomplished using soap and running water or a hand sanitizer (60-90% alcohol based). Hand washing with soap and running water must be performed when hands are visibly soiled.

Hands carry and spread germs. Touching your eyes, nose, mouth or sneezing or coughing into your hands may provide an opportunity for germs to get into your body or spread to others. Keeping your hands clean through good hygiene practice is one of the most important steps to avoid getting sick and spreading germs.

Alcohol based hand sanitizer may be used when hand washing is not possible but washing with soap and water is preferable.

Covering Your Cough Procedure

Germs, such as influenza, Covid-19 and cold viruses, are spread by coughing and/or sneezing. When you cough or sneeze on your hands, your hands carry and spread these germs. If someone is exhibiting symptoms including coughing and sneezing, they should be excluded from the Centre 24 hours until symptoms are improving.

Follow these steps to stop the spread of germs:

- If you have a tissue, cover your mouth and nose when you cough, sneeze or blow your nose
- Put used tissues in the garbage
- If you don't have a tissue, cough or sneeze into your sleeve, not in your hands
- Encourage children to learn to cough or sneeze into their sleeve
- Clean your hands with soap and water or hand sanitizer (60-90% alcohol-based) regularly and after using a tissue on yourself or others

Playground strategies

- Playground strategies have resumed to pre-Covid policies and procedures
More than 1 group can use the playground at any given time.

Screening for Symptoms

All children attending child care should be screened each day before entering the child care setting. Screening for children will be done electronically through HiMama
Educators will monitor the children throughout the day for any symptoms of ill health that may arise during the course of the program day.

Positive Covid cases no longer have to isolate for 5 days for vaccinated adults or children under 12 years of age or 10 days for unvaccinated adults.

Isolation periods are as follows:

Category A Symptoms – fever, chills, cough, shortness of breath, decrease or loss of taste or smell –

If you have 1 symptom in Category A

- Isolate for 24 hours – RAT testing recommended
- Can return to child care when symptoms have been improving for 24 hours **and** there is no fever. Child must be fever free and fever reducing medication free for a minimum of 24 hours
- Siblings and other members in the home should self-monitor for 10 days but do not need to stay home unless they develop symptoms

Category B Symptoms – muscle aches, joint pain, extreme tiredness, sore throat, runny or congested nose, headache, nausea, vomiting and diarrhea.

- Isolate for 24 hours – RAT testing recommended
- Can return to child care when symptoms have been improving for 24 hours **and** there is no fever. Child must be fever free and fever reducing medication free for a minimum of 24 hours

If you have one symptoms in Category B

- Stay home until symptoms are improving
- Siblings and other members in the home do not need to stay home

Category C Symptoms – abdominal pain, pink eye, decreased or no appetite in young children

- Stay home until symptoms are improving
- Siblings and other members in the home do not need to stay home

Definitions

Cleaning: refers to the physical removal of foreign material (i.e. dust, soil) and organic material (i.e. blood, secretions, microorganisms). Cleaning removes, rather than kill microorganisms. Warm water, soap and mechanical action (i.e. wiping) is required to clean surfaces. Rinsing with clean water is required to complete the cleaning process to ensure the soap film is removed.

Disinfecting: describes a process completed after cleaning in which a chemical solution, is used to kill most disease-causing microorganisms. In order to be effective disinfectants must be left on a surface for a period of time (contact time). Contact times are generally prescribed by the product manufacturer. Any items children may come into contact with, requires a final rinse after the required contact time is observed.

Procedures

All cleaning products must be out of reach of children, labelled, and must have Safety Data Sheet. (SDS) Educators will use rubber gloves for cleaning and disinfecting. Gloves should be cleaned and disinfected after every use. Use a mask if you have scent sensitivities.

Cleaning:

- Use soap and warm water to clean visibly soiled surfaces
- Rinse the surface with clean water (warm to tepid temperature preferred) to ensure soap is removed

Disinfecting:

- For general environmental disinfection of high touch surfaces, large toys and equipment that cannot be immersed in a bleach disinfectant solution use Oxivir Tb Ready to Use Spray or Wipe. **Contact time for Oxivir Tb Ready to Use spray or wipe is 1 minute.** (Oxivir Tb is a hydrogen peroxide product – please read SDS before use)
Rinse after contact time is complete – spray with a clean water bottle
- For all other toy cleaning & disinfecting, immerse fully in a bleach solution. **Contact time for bleach is 10 minutes.**
Rinse after contact time is complete – either immerse in clean water or spray with a clean water bottle
- Let the surface air dry