

# COVID-19: SMDHU GUIDANCE DOCUMENT FOR LICENSED CHILD CARE SETTINGS

It is expected that operators will follow the most current version of the [Ministry of Education \(MEDU\) guidance document for child care](#) in addition to the following Simcoe Muskoka Health Unit (SMDHU) requirements.

## COHORTING

The MEDU guidance supports staff, supervisors, students to move between child care locations and licensed age groups. SMDHU is encouraging limiting staff movement for coverage purposes only. **Cohorts are only permitted to be mixed outdoors.** Movement of staff, supervisors and students will be restricted when a centre is under enhanced surveillance or in a confirmed outbreak.

### High-Contact Physical Activities

SMDHU is encouraging high-contact activities that take place outdoors to occur with the assigned cohort (e.g. playing tag). All activities will need to be cohort-based during enhanced surveillance or in a confirmed outbreak.

## SCREENING

All individuals entering the centre must self-screen using the provincial tool (parents to screen their children) prior to entering the facility. Operators must confirm self-screening was completed prior to individuals entering the facility as well as, the result(s) of the tool. Any individual(s) that did not complete the screening must be screened at the centre prior to entry. Appropriate distancing is to be maintained between all individuals prior to entry. Parents will be permitted to bring their children to their respective cubby and room. Parents/guardians are required to wear a face covering.

## MASKING FOR SOURCE CONTROL

All children (> gr.1) are required to wear non-medical masks while inside the facility/home (including in hallways—unless eating/drinking). Masking is not required outdoors. SMDHU is further recommending masking for JK/SK age groups and may modify mask recommendations during enhanced surveillance or outbreak situations.

## PROGRAMMING

Groups may share a large room however must maintain 2 metres between the cohorts. Separate entrances are no longer required. Groups needing to share washrooms should ensure only one group at a time is in the washroom.

Sensory may return to routine practices however will cease during an enhanced surveillance or outbreak situation.

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## CLEANING/DISINFECTION

Clean and disinfect toys/manipulates as per your routine cleaning/disinfection schedule. Continue to focus on hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette before/after/during use of toys. Items that are coughed/sneezed on are to be removed immediately, then cleaned/disinfected.

### High Touch Surfaces

During enhanced surveillance or outbreak situations, cleaning and disinfecting should be increased beyond twice per day.

## MANAGEMENT OF A COVID CASE

The individual cannot return until “cleared” by their public health unit. “Cleared” means the individual is no longer under any public health restrictions.

## SURVEILLANCE SCREENING

SMDHU does not coordinate the antigen screening program. Please see SMDHU’s information on the [Provincial Antigen Screening Program](#).