

Outbreak Checklist

For Child Care Centres



Grey Bruce
Public Health

As per the Health Protection and Promotion Act, RSO 1990, c. H.7, Regulation 559/91 outbreaks in institutions are reportable to the local medical officer of health. A licensed child care centre under the Child Care Early Years Act is defined as an institution. All licensed child care centres are required to report suspected or confirmed outbreaks to their local public health unit.

Enteric Outbreak: 2 or more people in the same group start vomiting and/or diarrhea within 48 hours of each other

Respiratory Outbreak: 3 or more people in the same group with onset of similar respiratory symptoms within 48 hours of each other

NOTIFY PUBLIC HEALTH

If in doubt, reach out!

- Phone: 519-376-9420 • 1-800-263-3456 ext. 6
- Email: InfectiousDiseases@publichealthgreybruce.on.ca

PREPARE AND SUBMIT A LINE LIST

- Start a line list ([template available on our website](#))
- Fax the line list daily to 519-376-4152

EXCLUDE ILL CHILDREN AND STAFF

Children and staff from affected groups or room should not be mixed with other groups. For example, if the toddler room is showing signs of illness, do not let them interact in a common room for pick-up.

Have a dedicated space where an ill child can safely wait to be picked up by a parent/guardian.

Enteric Outbreaks:

- Ill children and staff may return after 48 hours symptom free.
- If a food handler becomes ill while working, discard any ready-to-eat foods they prepared while on shift (e.g. salads, sandwiches, etc..).

Respiratory Outbreaks

- Ill Children and staff may return after symptoms have improved and they no longer have a fever.

PRACTICE GOOD HAND HYGIENE

- Make sure hand hygiene supplies are available (i.e., soap, paper towels, alcohol base hand rub).
- Wash hands when coming into the centre (in addition to usual hand washing practices).
- Use alcohol based hand rub (hand sanitizer) when hands are not visibly soiled. Make sure the product has at least 70% alcohol content.

MODIFY ACTIVITIES AND TOYS

- Water and sensory play should be discontinued. Discard used sensory play materials.
- Clean and disinfect toys daily.
- Continue to clean and disinfect mouthed toys after each use.
- All bedding, dress up clothes and plush toys laundered and dried on high heat daily if in use or remove until outbreak is over.
- Cancel social activities and field trips for the duration of the outbreak

CLEAN AND DISINFECT

- Review cleaning and disinfection procedures. Check concentrations and contact times.
- Clean and disinfect common touch surfaces daily at a minimum (e.g., door handles, handrails, tabletops, phones, light switches, etc.).
- Washrooms should continue to be cleaned and disinfected daily.
- Continue to clean and disinfect diaper change tables after each use.
- Contaminated clothing should be put directly into a plastic bag for parents to take home.
- Cloths, linens, and re-usable mop heads laundered and dried on high heat cycles.

NOTIFY PARENTS AND GUARDIANS

- Parents and guardians should be made aware of the:
 - increase in illness.
 - importance of keeping their child home when ill and for how long.
- Continue to update parents and guardians as the situation evolves.
- Consider posting a notice at the entrance to advise any visitors of the increase in illness.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Additional outbreak management resources, including information on exclusion criteria for specific infectious diseases is available on our website.

[Schools, Childcare Centres And Camps \(publichealthgreybruce.on.ca\)](https://publichealthgreybruce.on.ca)

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