

Child Care Outbreak Checklist

Checklist to manage an outbreak

All staff share responsibility for keeping children safe. This checklist provides general measures for staff to complete during an outbreak. Refer to the [Guide for Outbreak Prevention & Control in Child Care Facilities](#) for more details. When applicable, follow child care facility policies. For additional support contact the AHS Public Health Outbreak Team at 1-833-592-2029 or email CD_Outbreak_School_DayCare@albertahealthservices.ca.

General outbreak measures

- Follow all recommendations made by the AHS Public Health Outbreak Team.
- Inform parents and staff of the outbreak.
- Monitor to identify newly symptomatic children.
- Report newly symptomatic children and/or staff to the AHS Public Health Outbreak Team daily.
- Encourage children and staff to practice frequent [hand hygiene](#) and [respiratory etiquette](#).
- Provide easy access to hand sanitizer and hand washing stations.
- Ensure availability of all supplies such as hand hygiene products and disinfectants.
- Recommend staff interacting with symptomatic children wear appropriate personal protective equipment such as a face mask and/or gloves.

Managing children and staff

- Ask parents to watch their children for new symptoms and keep them home if they are symptomatic.
- Contact parents to pick up symptomatic children as soon as possible.
- Keep children who develop symptoms while at the facility in an area away from others.
- Recommend that children who develop respiratory symptoms wear a face mask.
- Recommend that children who develop GI symptoms use a dedicated washroom.
- Send symptomatic staff home.

Activities and food services

- Consider postponing high risk field trips and activities.
- Recommend that children and staff in the affected rooms minimize interactions with others.
- Minimize the use of common or shared items such as craft supplies, toys, books, and puzzles.
 - If shared use is necessary, clean and disinfect between users.
- Close shared sensory tables including water/sand tables, and shared play dough.
- Cease family-style meal service.

Enhanced cleaning and disinfection

- Follow the [Public Health Recommendations for Environmental Cleaning of Public Facilities](#).
- Increase the frequency of cleaning and disinfection of common areas and surfaces.
- Clean and disinfect high touch areas such as doorknobs and washrooms.
- Clean and disinfect all affected areas once the outbreak has ended.
- Increase the frequency of cleaning and disinfection of any shared transport vehicles including high touch-surfaces such as door handles, rails, and steering wheel.

Plan a safe return

- Share the following recommendations with staff and parents:

Type of symptoms	When to return after illness
Respiratory illness	Stay home until all symptoms have improved, feeling well enough to resume normal activities, and fever-free for 24 hours without using fever-reducing medications.
Gastrointestinal illness	Stay home until 48 hours after all symptoms have resolved.
Rash illness	Stay home for the length of time recommended by the AHS Public Health Outbreak Team.