

Dear employer,

Many families have been affected by the recent E. coli related daycare closures in Calgary.

While not necessarily being ill themselves, parents may have unexpectedly and suddenly lost childcare.

To help control the spread of this illness, it is important that these parents have support. Please consider this for any of your employees who have been affected.

E. coli is a highly transmissible bacteria that can be spread by food or water sources, or by hand to mouth contact and secondary transmission is not unusual in significant outbreaks such as this.

It is crucial for parents who have children who attended these daycares follow the guidance being given to them by healthcare professionals. If their daycare is closed, please understand why this was done and the need to keep children at home until they have received clearance from Alberta Health Services (AHS) and remain symptom free.

To ensure the safety of others and to reduce transmission, all children and staff from facilities and/or classrooms that were issued closure orders must test negative for E. coli before they can attend any childcare facility. This even includes those who have had no gastrointestinal symptoms.

AHS will only provide children and staff with clearance to return to daycare once they have reviewed negative tests. Health Link or Environmental Public Health will inform parents of completed lab results, confirm they remain asymptomatic and then issue them with clearance letters to return to daycare when appropriate.

The timeline for receiving clearance letters will vary from person to person depending on how the illness has impacted each individual.

Thank you in advance for supporting impacted parents and their need to care for their children at home during this difficult time as well as the impacted staff members.