

January 3, 2022

Dear MCRC Families,

As you are aware, the province recently announced updates to their COVID-19 testing and isolation guidelines. Below is an overview of the current guidelines as they pertain to attending MCRC's licensed child care programs:

**Daily Screening and Symptoms:**

- The province has made updates to the online self-assessment tool which can be found at <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/self-assessment/>. This self-assessment must be completed by all staff and children daily, prior to attending MCRC programs, and confirmation must be shown to staff at the door.
- All isolation requirements as instructed at the end of the self-assessment tool must be followed.
- If your child has symptoms of COVID-19, they are required to isolate for 5 days from the onset of their symptoms. They may return to care after 5 days if their symptoms have been improving for at least 24 hours, or 48 hours if their symptoms are nausea, vomiting or diarrhea.
- All household contacts must isolate for the same duration as the person with symptoms regardless of their vaccination status.

**COVID-19 Testing:**

- PCR testing is now limited to certain individuals and settings that are considered high-risk, and child care is not considered a high-risk setting at this time.
- A negative test result is not required to return to childcare after the isolation period is complete.
- If you have access to rapid antigen tests, your child may end their isolation earlier than 5 days if they complete two tests at least 24 hours apart and receive a negative result on both tests.
- If your child tests positive for COVID-19, they must isolate for 5 days from when their symptoms began. If they have no symptoms, they must isolate for 5 days from the positive test result.
- Household contacts must also isolate for the same duration as the person who tested positive regardless of their vaccination status.

**Refunds of Child Care Fees:**


As communicated in September, we are no longer receiving any additional financial supports from the government and have no confirmation that there will be any additional supports for the early learning and child care sector. Given the lack of funding supports, MCRC is unable to provide refunds when children are absent due to COVID-19 symptoms and/or testing requirements. Parents will be required to pay for all scheduled days of care as per our normal pre-COVID policies. In the event that a classroom or program is closed based on direction from Public Health, refunds will be issued for the period of the closure.



We understand how difficult this ongoing pandemic has been for everyone, especially with ongoing lockdowns and closures. We appreciate all that you have been doing to work alongside our staff to protect the health and safety of everyone. With the updated isolation requirements and the current rate of cases, we are doing all that we can to ensure our programs are fully staffed and able to provide safe, high-quality care. Despite all of our contingency planning, if we are faced with a staffing shortage, we may be forced to temporarily close a classroom or program. If this was to happen, communication will be sent out to any affected families as soon as possible, and fees will not be charged for those days.

As we head into the new year and navigate this fourth wave, it is my sincere hope that you and your family stay well, and that we can remain an important support to you and your children.

Sincerely,



Rebecca Barrows-Vrankulj  
Executive Director