

COVID-19 TASK FORCE: EDUCATION SECTOR

SUB-COMMITTEE 1: RE-OPENING & CONTINUITY OF SERVICE FOR CHILDMINDING & DAY CARE CENTRES

GUIDELINE #10: PROMOTION OF PHYSICAL DISTANCING FOR BREAK TIMES & ACTIVITY SCHEDULES



Introduction

Since school closures that were announced in March 2020, Public Health – released guidance on reducing the spread of COVID-19 for gathering of children while schools are close. This guidance includes social and physical distancing, described as keeping at least 1 metre away from others. Spreading kids out will help reduce the risk of spreading COVID-19. Utilize the space you have, including lunch space, and indoor and outdoor play space to continue with indoor and outdoor activities. Continued social distancing are necessary to avoid a rebound in new cases that could overwhelm the healthcare system.

- Children must be kept in the same group with the same staff at all times. Do not combine groups.
- Use different areas within the premises (even outdoors if applicable) for various activities while still abiding to the recommended child per caregiver ratio.

- Plan small group activities. For example, formulate small groups of less than 5 children.
- Physically rearrange the setting to promote small group activities.
- Keep mobile and non-mobile infants separate.
- Take into consideration children with special needs.
- Plan activities that do not require close physical contact between children.
- Increase the distance between children during table work
- No sharing of items
- All items used must be cleaned and sanitized as per guidelines after use.
- Avoid using items that cannot be cleaned or sanitized (e.g. playdough).
- Minimize time standing in lines.
- Postpone celebration of special events whereby the social distancing cannot be maintained.
- Maintain outdoor activities such as swimming, ballet, baby gym etc. as long as social and physical distancing requirements are maintained at all times (transportation and activities).
- Birthdays can be celebrated in the group and maintain the distance. The parents/guardian will be allowed to bring the cake and cut at the facility. Permission need to be sought from other parents for their kid's participation.
- During nap time ensure that children's naptime mats (or cribs) are spaced out as much as possible, ideally 1 metre apart.
- Consider staggering break times of different groups.
- Keep the same group for break and lunch.