

# COVID-19 TASK FORCE: EDUCATION SECTOR

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

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### **GUIDELINE #3 (a): Establish an area for isolation in the event a child or staff fall sick in Childminding and Day Care Centres.**

*Isolation is used to separate sick people from healthy people. Anyone sick should be separated from others by staying in a specific space.*

- Designate a room or area that can be used to isolate a sick child or staff. A cot in a corner of the room can also be used for children whilst awaiting to be transported to a health facility. In childminding facilities a separate room or space can be used to separate sick children or staff.
- Follow guidance on how to disinfect the area if someone is sick.
- If a sick child has been isolated in your facility, clean and disinfect surfaces in your isolation room or area after the sick child or staff has left your facility
- If COVID-19 is confirmed in a child or staff member:
  - *Close down the childcare facility.*
  - *Open outside doors and windows to increase air circulation in the areas.*
  - *Wait up to 24 hours or as long as possible before you clean or disinfect to allow respiratory droplets to settle before cleaning and disinfecting.*
  - *Clean and disinfect all areas used by the person who is sick, such as bathrooms and common areas.*
  - *Continue routine cleaning and disinfection.*
  - *Follow guidance from the Department of Health on when to re-open facility.*

### **GUIDELINE #3(b): Sick children and staff to remain home**

*All sick children and staff should not be allowed in Childcare Facilities. Have a plan if someone is or becomes sick.*

- Communicate to parents the importance of keeping children home when they are sick.
- Communicate to staff the importance of being vigilant for symptoms and staying in touch with their health facility if or when they start to feel sick.
- Establish procedures to ensure children and staff who come to the child care center sick or become sick while at the facility leave as soon as possible.
- Keep sick children and staff in designated isolation area until they depart childcare facility.
- Sick children and staff members should not return to childcare facility until they have met the criteria to come back from the Department of Health.
- **Parents/Guardians should obtain required sick leave to care for their children at home for the duration of the illness.**

### **GUIDELINE #3(c): Monitor and Plan for Absenteeism among Staff in Day Care Facility**

- Develop plans to make provisions for alternative staff coverage in the event of increased staff absences.
- Train potential staff with childcare experience to ensure availability of substitute caregivers.

For Childminding service, if the Childminder is ill the service should be discontinued since it is delivered at the residence of the childminder.