

Operational Guidance During COVID-19 Outbreak – Addendum

1. Screening for Symptoms

Replacing language from the Operational Guidance documents relating to the preference to screen prior to arrival at the child care setting through the use of the provincial screening tool with the preference to actively screen in-person at the child care setting.

- While the [COVID-19 School and Child Care Screening](#) tool continues to be a helpful support for families to understand if they should or should not attend school or child care, **active, in-person screening is now the preferred method of screening** to determine if a person may enter a child care premises.
 - It continues that individuals who do not pass the screening are not permitted to attend the program and must stay home.
 - The ministry continues to ask that screening criteria is aligned to the provincial tool. Note that the screening tool has been updated to reflect regional changes to screening criteria (e.g. in Toronto and Peel Region).

2. Staff/Provider Training

Replacing language from the Operational Guidance documents relating to new training not being required for child care staff/provider with each iteration of the guidance, with the request to ensure updated training is provided to all staff/providers as health and safety measures change.

- Updated training should be offered such that all child care staff/providers receive training on current health and safety measures in place according to the Operational Guidance as well as those in place by the local Public Health Unit.

3. Parent Fees

The addition of new provisions so that operators of child care programs serving school-aged children are prohibited from charging fees to parents if they are not providing child care services.

- Operators of child care programs serving school-aged children are prohibited from charging fees or otherwise penalizing parents if they are not offering child care services.

4. Access to Child Care Spaces and Prioritizing Families

Additional language to remind service system managers that when re-opening child care spaces for school-aged children and in-person schooling, consideration is to be given to how children will be offered spaces in programs, given the shift in service.

- There will be families served through Emergency Child Care for school-aged children that were not accessing service prior to the closure and will lose their space upon the conclusion of Emergency Child Care. Service system managers and licensees should work together to support families to transition to the service level, program location, and payment structure that best suits their needs upon re-opening school aged programs and in-person schooling.