

Appendix L: Additional Guidance for Child Care Facilities



No Sharing Policies and Storage of Personal Items

To reduce the spread of germs, personal items should not be shared. It is important to reinforce no food or water-bottle sharing policies with children.

Label all children's personal items (e.g., hats, combs, brushes, toothpaste, toothbrushes, clothing, pacifiers, lip balm, bottles, food, drinks, clothing, etc.).

Personal items must be stored separately and handled in a safe and sanitary manner. For example, after touching the top of one water bottle, staff should perform hand hygiene before touching the top and refilling another child's bottle. Alternately, staff can provide guidance for children to refill their own water bottle in a sanitary manner.

Baby bottles need to be properly cleaned and sanitized between uses.

Monitoring Illness and Early Identification of Infection

To monitor for illness, child care facilities should observe children for symptoms of illness (e.g., diarrhea, vomiting, cough, fever, rash, or other clusters of unusual symptoms).

Ask parents how children are doing each day and document any symptoms they have observed in their children.

Encourage parents to inform the facility of a diagnosed illness after a visit to the doctor.

Document details of symptoms, diagnosed illnesses, or absences of children and staff due to illness.

Maintain a toileting logbook to help identify children with an increase in diarrheal-associated illness.

Illness Policies for Child Care Facilities

A critical step in breaking the chain of infection is for children and staff to stay home when they are sick.

Facilities should implement appropriate illness policies.

Children should not attend when

- they are too sick to take part in normal program activities in the facility
- they need more one-on-one care than the facility can provide while caring for other children
- public health requirements indicate they should stay home

When should we contact public health officials?

Facilities are encouraged to contact their local public health office for advice and direction if

- there are signs of an outbreak in the facility (e.g., higher than expected absenteeism due to similar symptoms or illness)
- there is a reason to believe that someone attending the facility has been exposed to or is sick with a reportable communicable disease as defined in The Public Health Act at <https://web2.gov.mb.ca/laws/regs/current/pdf-regs.php?reg=37/2009>
- if staff or parents bring forth concerns about an increase in infections

Following guidance from public health officials, facilities may be required to inform the families of children attending the facilities of an outbreak.