

March 12, 2020

Re: Risk Management to contain COVID-19 and opportunities for transmission within the community.

To all our families.

Amidst the daily news regarding COVID-19, we wish to assure you that YPCE is keeping informed and proactive over developments surrounding its' management. At this time, it is "play as usual" in our environments, as we maintain familiarity in both activities and practices. We are committed to maintaining healthy environments for families, educators, home providers and other parties actively involved in our sites and homes.

COVID-19 is an evolving virus that is reportable to public health officials when confirmed in an individual. As with any reportable illness that may occur within our programs, direction is taken from local public health authorities; who collaborate with The Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC); regarding containment strategies and potential site or private home closures.

Communication shall be maintained with either of the health agencies for guidance in working toward containment of spreading COVID-19 in the local community. Local community transmission specifically refers to the spread of the illness in people who are **NOT** linked to travel outside of Canada. If you have travelled outside of Canada, please monitor your health for fever, cough and difficulty breathing for 14 days after you arrive in Canada. If these symptoms are present, please call public health and they will provide advice on next steps.

While research shows that children generally fare well if they are infected with coronavirus, they are also able to spread the illness to others. Establishing strategies of containment, and enforcing their implementation, is critical for containment in our sites and in the local community. YPCE shall make every effort to communicate with our families, those strategies and any updates that are important to facilitate containment. Strategies may change as new information surfaces.

Parents are advised of the three, main containment strategies our sites are focusing on:

- To have children, educators and home providers who are ill with fever and/or infectious respiratory symptoms stay home from childcare.
- To practice good respiratory etiquette and hand hygiene.
- To ensure regular and routine environmental cleaning of the facility.

In the **remote** instance that the agency is faced with closing a site or private home; it shall be done in collaboration with local public health authorities and or community partners. If possible, closures will be considered on an individual basis, based on the symptoms that present or actual cases of the virus. As information on the spread of the COVID-19 illness is evolving, up to date information on symptoms can be found at the [Canada.ca](https://www.canada.ca) and [WHO Novel Coronavirus](https://www.who.int/news-room/feature-stories/coronavirus) web sites.

Yours very truly,

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