COVID-19 procedure to follow in educational childcare centres

1. If a child shows symptoms\(^1\) while with their group:
   - The child is automatically isolated.
   - A single staff member cares for the child while waiting for the parent.
   - An emergency kit containing the necessary materials (masks, glasses, gloves, etc.) is used.
   - The room in which the child is isolated while waiting to be picked up must be ventilated, cleaned and disinfected afterward.
   - A box of rapid tests is given to the parents when they pick up their child. The parent tests the child at home.
   - If the rapid test is positive, the parent must have the child tested at a designated COVID-19 screening test centre (CDD) and keep the child at home in isolation while waiting for the result. Then the parent must follow Public Health guidelines.
   - If the rapid test is negative, the parent should wait 24 hours and see if the child still has symptoms. If the child is symptom free after 24 hours, the child can go back to educational childcare services. If the child still has symptoms, the parent must give the child a second rapid test. If after two rapid tests, the result is still negative, the child can return to educational childcare service if his or her condition allows.
   - If, after 24 hours of observation, the parent notices that symptoms have worsened, he or she must use the COVID-19 Symptom Self-Assessment Tool on Québec.ca or call 1-877-644-4545 and follow the instructions given.

2. If a child shows symptoms\(^1\) while at home:
   - It is recommended that the child be kept at home and that contact be avoided with others. The parent should give the child a rapid test.
   - If the rapid test is positive, the parent must have the child tested at a designated COVID-19 screening test centre (CDD) and keep the child at home in isolation while waiting for the result of the laboratory test. Then the parent must follow Public Health guidelines.
   - If the rapid test is negative, the parent should wait 24 hours and see if the child still has symptoms. If the child is symptom free after 24 hours, the child can go back to educational childcare services. If the child still has symptoms, the parent must give the child a second rapid test. If after two rapid tests, the result is still negative, the child can return to educational childcare service if his or her condition allows.
   - If, after 24 hours of observation, the parent notices that symptoms have worsened, he or she should use the COVID-19 Symptom Self-Assessment Tool on Québec.ca or call 1-877-644-4545 and follow the instructions given.

3. If another child in my child’s group tests positive for COVID-19:
   - With help from the parents of the child concerned and the childcare centre, the regional public health authorities will follow up with contact tracing. Anyone considered to be at moderate to high risk will be contacted by the regional public health authorities and will be removed from the childcare centre and tested.
   - Anyone considered to be at low risk will receive a letter from the childcare centre. They may continue to attend the childcare centre and must monitor their symptoms for a period of 14 days.

4. If there are several cases of COVID-19 in the same group or if the outbreak involves several groups\(^2\):
   - With help from the administration and staff members of the childcare centre, the public health authorities will identify all close contacts at the childcare centre.
   - Parents and staff members considered to be at low risk will be informed by the administration of the childcare centre.
   - Parents and staff members considered to be at moderate to high risk will be contacted by the regional public health authorities and will be removed from the childcare centre and tested.
   - In collaboration with the administration of the childcare centre, the regional public health authorities will assess the situation and make the necessary recommendations indicating whether a group or the entire childcare centre must be shut down.

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1. The symptoms to watch for are: fever, cough (new or worsened), shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, sore throat, sudden loss of smell without a stuffy nose, intense fatigue, significant loss of appetite, generalized muscle aches, sore throat, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, stomach aches.

2. After analyzing the level of transmission of the virus in the childcare centre and taking into consideration the epidemiological factors specific to the community or region, the public health authorities may step up the response measures (shut down an educational childcare centre).
If an educator (or any other staff member) shows one or more symptoms while at home:

- She or he must stay home and use the COVID-19 Symptom Self-Assessment Tool available at Québec.ca/decisioncovid19 or call 1-877-644-4545 and follow the guidelines provided.

If an educator (or any other staff member) shows one or more symptoms while at work:

- She or he must return home as soon as possible, avoiding public transit. If obliged to take a taxi, when requesting the taxi, the person must mention that she or he has symptoms similar to those of COVID-19.
- If the educator cannot leave the childcare centre immediately, while waiting to leave, she or he must wear a procedure mask and self-isolate in a room reserved for this purpose.
- After the person has left the centre, the room where she or he was waiting must be ventilated, cleaned and disinfected.
- The educator must then use the self-assessment tool available at Québec.ca/decisioncovid19 or call 1-877-644-4545 and follow the guidelines provided to find out whether she or he should be tested or can return to the childcare centre.

If an educator (or any other staff member) receives a positive result on a COVID-19 test:

- With help from the educator and childcare centre concerned, any close contacts of the affected person will be identified and the regional public health authorities will contact those persons (children and other staff members) at the childcare centre who are considered to be at moderate to high risk. They will be removed from the centre and required to get themselves tested and self-isolate at home for a minimum of 14 days.
- Anyone considered to be at low risk will receive a letter from the childcare centre informing them that someone at the centre has COVID-19. They may continue to attend the childcare centre and must monitor their symptoms for 14 days.

1. The symptoms to watch for are: fever, cough (new or worse), shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, sudden loss of sense of smell without nasal congestion, with or without a loss of taste, major fatigue, significant loss of appetite, general muscle pain (not related to physical exertion), nausea, vomiting, diarrhea and stomach aches.