

MEMORANDUM

TO: Regulated Child Care Centres and Family Home Child Care Agencies
FROM: Denise Stone, Executive Director, Early Learning and Child Care (ELCC) Branch
DATE: April 23, 2021
SUBJECT: Updated COVID-19 guidance

Good afternoon:

Please see attached the updated "*Preventing COVID-19 Spread in Child Care Settings*" fact sheet. If printing and posting this information, please ensure you replace existing documents with this attachment. These documents can also be found online at <https://www.ednet.ns.ca/earlyyears/providers>.

Following are the high level changes to the document:

- reflects the current guidance that all Nova Scotians are strongly encouraged to seek COVID-19 testing if they don't have symptoms or if they only have one mild symptom, particularly if they have a large number of close contacts;
- the focus has switched from whether or not testing is required, to whether individuals are required to isolate while awaiting test results; and
- reflects the current changes in travel restrictions.

The Daily COVID-19 Checklist has also been updated to reflect the same. Staff and families should be directed to the most recent/updated document at: <https://novascotia.ca/coronavirus/docs/Daily-COVID-checklist-en.pdf>. If printing and posting this information, please ensure you replace existing documents with this attachment.

As guidance and restrictions (including travel and self-isolation) may change again, going forward we will be sending an ECDS email to you letting you know there has been a change, and will include a link to the website where more information can be found. We hope this reduces any time delay for you, staff and families to access the most up to date information. As always, we encourage you to keep up-to-date with the latest provincial guidance and restrictions at <https://novascotia.ca/coronavirus>.

As previously communicated, the province will continue to provide COVID-19 supplies, such as hand sanitizer, gloves, and non-medical face masks until the end of June. Prior to the end of June, we'll be reassessing need based on advice from Public Health and your feedback.

We continue to work closely with Public Health and we ask that you continue to follow the information and directions specifically created for regulated child care. We will continue to advise you when and if changes to guidelines and/or practices is required.

Thank you for your continued vigilance in keeping COVID-19 from entering and/or spreading within child care facilities and family home child care provider homes across the province!