



INTERIM CARE PROTOCOLS FOR SERVICE PROVIDERS DURING COVID-19

The Bottom Line

Actions with the best interests of the child in mind may result in their apprehension, regardless of health crises. If family-based care is not an option, health and safety guidelines should be followed to protect the child and other residents currently living in out-of-home care.

When the Need for Out-of-Home Care is Necessary

- The child is at immediate risk of harm due to a rapidly diminishing state of safety in their current care setting.
- The child has been abandoned with no other adults able to care for them.
- The child's caregiver has been instructed to quarantine themselves, becomes sick or hospitalized, or has passed away.

Considerations Adhering to “Do Not Harm” Ethical Guidelines

- Contact should be made between the separated child and their family members whenever possible (e.g., phone calls, video calls).
- A child may want to bring a reminder from home with them to their residential care setting.
- Clear safeguarding protocols should be explained to caregivers, children, and staff.
- A referral system should be clearly identified should the child become sick and need to be treated or quarantined.



Physical Health and Safety Guidelines: Upon Arrival

- Each child should wash their face and hands for 20 seconds.
- Each child should have their temperature checked and be screened for any symptoms frequently.
- Inquire about the child's medical history that may make them more susceptible to the disease, including any health conditions and/or pregnancies in young girls.
- Frequently touched surfaces should be disinfected as much as possible, and it is recommended that the facility be entirely disinfected twice daily.
- If a quarantine in residential care is necessary, it is recommended that children with similar time periods of isolation be grouped together if there is more than one resident in need of quarantine.

Physical Health and Safety Guidelines: During Care

- Wash all surfaces with detergent and water, then disinfect with a chlorine-based product. See the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's guidelines](#) for advanced surface cleaning details.
- All children must wash their hands for 20 seconds after going outside, using the bathroom, and before eating meals. Keep moisturizer by the sink to avoid painful dry hands from excessive washing.
- Each child should be provided with their own basic hygiene materials. These include but are not limited to bars of soap, towel, toothbrush/toothpaste, shampoo, and dining kit with glasses, plates, and silverware.
- Ensure enough space between beds and alternate use of play spaces between sanitation.
- Increase ventilation, physical distancing, the use of personal protective equipment (PPE), and outdoor interactions. Reduce prolonged, close contact, indoor interactions when possible.

Physical Health and Safety Guidelines: Upon Departure

- The child should be briefed on the alternative care setting they are going to.
- The child should be allowed to take all of their personal belongings as well as any belongings given to them during their stay with them when they leave residential care.
- Both the child and family should know who to contact if they have any problems or concerns related to health and safety.

For original sources and documents, please visit: www.childtraumaresearch.ca

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