

Infection Prevention and Control in Licensed Day Nurseries Protocol

Preamble

The Ontario Public Health Standards (OPHS) are published by the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care under the authority of the Health Protection and Promotion Act (HPPA)¹ to specify the mandatory health programs and services provided by boards of health. Protocols are program and topic specific documents which provide direction on how boards of health must operationalize specific requirement(s) identified within the OPHS. They are an important mechanism by which greater standardization is achieved in the province-wide implementation of public health programs.

Protocols identify the minimum expectations for public health programs and services. Boards of health have the authority to develop programs and services in excess of minimum requirements where required to address local needs. Boards of health are accountable for implementing the standards including those protocols that are incorporated into the standards.

Purpose

The purpose of this protocol is to provide direction to boards of health for the delivery of advice, consultation, and inspection(s) with respect to infection prevention and control practices in licensed day nurseries.

Reference to the Standards

The table below identifies the OPHS standard and requirement to which this protocol relates:

Standard	Requirement
Infectious Diseases Prevention and Control	Requirement #14: The board of health shall inspect settings associated with risk of infectious diseases of public health importance in accordance with the <i>Infection Prevention and Control in Licensed Day Nurseries Protocol, 2008</i> (or as current); the <i>Infection Prevention and Control in Personal Services Settings Protocol, 2008</i> (or as current); and the <i>Risk Assessment and Inspection of Facilities Protocol, 2008</i> (or as current).

Operational Roles and Responsibilities

1) General

- a) The board of health shall maintain a current list of licensed day nurseries (“day nursery” is defined under Section 1 of the Day Nurseries Act²) in the health unit.

2) Detection, investigation, and identification

- a) The board of health shall respond to requests from licensed day nurseries for consultation or inspections related to infection prevention and control policies and practices in licensed day nurseries in the health unit.
- b) The board of health shall conduct assessments of infection prevention and control policies and practices in licensed day nurseries to address:
 - i) Adherence to board of health policies;
 - ii) Use of appropriate infection prevention and control practices; and
 - iii) Risk of infectious disease transmission.

3) Management

- a) The board of health shall provide written information to licensed day nurseries to specify required reporting to the medical officer of health of cases and outbreaks of reportable infectious diseases.
- b) The board of health shall provide educational resources to licensed day nursery operators with respect to appropriate infection prevention and control policies and practices.
- c) The board of health shall assist licensed day nursery operators in implementing infection prevention and control programs and practices. Activities shall include consultation on the development of infection prevention and control policies and procedures as follows:
 - i) Health evaluation of children for signs and symptoms of communicable disease;
 - ii) Hygiene and disinfection practices;
 - iii) Hand hygiene;
 - iv) Appropriate diapering and toileting practices;
 - v) Prevention of occupationally acquired infections, including surveillance and management; and
 - vi) Communication with parents and staff with respect to infection prevention and control practices in the licensed day nursery.
- d) The board of health shall assist licensed day nurseries in developing and maintaining policies to address:
 - i) Maintenance of immunization records of children enrolled and staff. For additional information, refer also to the *Immunization Management Protocol, 2008* (or as current);
 - ii) Required reporting of cases and outbreaks of reportable diseases to the medical officer of health;
 - iii) Management of/response to infectious diseases in the licensed day nursery;
 - iv) Exclusion of sick children, staff, parents, and/or volunteers; and
 - v) Required communication with parents with regard to communicable diseases.
- e) The board of health shall provide annual in-service education on appropriate current infection prevention and control practices to licensed day nursery operators and staff. In-service education shall be relevant to the setting and the needs identified through inspection or consultation with the setting.*

4) Inspection

- a) The board of health shall inspect all licensed day nurseries annually which shall include:
 - i) A risk-based approach shall be used to determine the priority and need for additional inspections;
 - ii) A risk-based approach shall be used to determine and recommend applicable infection prevention and control measures;
 - iii) Inspections shall include assessment of compliance with statutory requirements; and
 - iv) Inspections may be conducted more frequently as required.
- b) The board of health shall respond to food safety and environmental issues in licensed day nursery settings in accordance with the requirements of the *Food Safety Protocol, 2008* (or as current) and the *Risk Assessment and Inspection of Facilities Protocol, 2008* (or as current).
- c) In addition to the annual inspection, the board of health shall conduct inspections on a case-by-case basis in response to specific complaints by members of the public or risks which have been identified.

5) Enforcement

- a) The board of health shall respond appropriately to findings of inspections, including orders issued by the medical officer of health or public health inspector, as the case may be, under Sections 13 and 22 of the HPPA.¹

*For further information, please refer to best practice documents such as: Well Beings: A Guide to Promote the Physical Health, Safety and Emotional Well-Being of Children in Child Care Centres and Family Day Care Homes, 1999³ and Infection Control in the Child Care Center and Preschool⁴

6) Data collection, reporting, and information transfer

- a) The board of health shall maintain a record of all inspections conducted.
- b) The board of health shall report, to the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (the “ministry”), cases and outbreaks of infectious diseases in day nurseries in accordance with their supervisory role under Part IV of the HPPA¹ through the integrated Public Health Information System (iPHIS) or any other method specified by the ministry.
- c) The board of health shall review findings of licensed day nursery inspections to identify epidemiological/disease trends to inform future education and response activities and to develop corrective actions.

References

1. *Health Protection and Promotion Act*, R.S.O. 1990, c. H.7.
Available from http://www.e-laws.gov.on.ca/html/statutes/english/elaws_statutes_90h07_e.htm.
2. *Day Nurseries Act*, R.S.O. 1990, c. D.2.
Available from http://www.e-laws.gov.on.ca/html/statutes/english/elaws_statutes_90d02_e.htm.
3. Canadian Paediatric Society. *Well beings: a guide to promote the physical health, safety and emotional well-being of children in child care centres and family day care homes*. 2nd ed. Ottawa: Canadian Paediatric Society; 1999.
4. Grossman LB, editor. *Infection control in the child care center and preschool*. 7th ed. Charlottesville, VA: Lippincott Williams & Wilkins; 2006.