

September 28, 2021

Dear child care operators,

I am writing to let you know that Alberta Health has issued an update to the health guidance for licensed child care operators regarding new masking requirements for staff and greater clarity about isolation requirements and recommendations for unvaccinated household contacts.

We continue to follow the direction and advice of Alberta's Chief Medical Officer of Health, and the health guidance for child care will be updated as needed to reflect the current health situation. As always, we are fully committed to providing you with updates or changes to the guidance or health measures related to child care in as timely a manner as possible.

I have included below a summary of the guidance changes, but the full document can be found [online here](#).

Please contact your Licensing Officer with any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

Tania Brudler
Acting Assistant Deputy Minister

Summary of Updates to Health Guidance for Child Care – September 28, 2021

Masking:

The updated guidance requires that all staff in facility-based programs and family day home educators wear a mask while at work, except in circumstances where wearing a mask impedes the staff member's ability to provide care to a child.

Wearing a mask is now required as a measure to maintain the safety of young children who are not yet eligible to receive the vaccine. Staff (as well as children who choose to use a mask) should follow the Alberta Health mask guidance, which can be found [online here](#).

Licensed family day home agency consultants visiting licensed provider homes must wear a mask, and should wash their hands (or use hand sanitizer) when entering or exiting the day home.

Isolation:

Individuals are legally required to isolate for 10 days if they test positive for COVID-19 or have any core symptoms that are not related to a pre-existing illness or health condition.

Although close contacts of positive cases are no longer legally required to quarantine, it is strongly recommended that all unvaccinated household contacts of a person infected with COVID-19 should stay home for 14 days.

Alberta Health has advised that a "household contact" is defined as a person who lives in the same residence as the case, or who has been in frequent, long-duration, close-range interaction with the person who tested positive. This definition includes unvaccinated child care staff who provide direct care for children who are unable to implement good standards of respiratory hygiene (e.g. unable to perform appropriate hand washing, covering coughs/sneezes, using and disposing of tissues).