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January 18, 2022

Child Care facilities
Licensees and Managers

via email

Dear Licensee or Manager

Re: Responding to COVID-19 Cases in Child Care Facilities

COVID-19 guidelines are currently being updated in order to take into account the increased transmissibility and decreased severity of the omicron variant which is currently circulating in BC.

As an operator of a child care facility, you may become aware of one or more cases of COVID-19 among your staff or children. VCH Medical Health Officers are providing the following direction for symptomatic and confirmed cases of COVID-19 among staff or children and their contacts.

Symptomatic staff or children:

- Staff or children that are exhibiting COVID symptoms should stay home until they feel well enough to return to regular activity. According to newly released testing guidelines many staff and children will not be eligible for COVID-19 testing.

Confirmed Case(s) of COVID-19 in staff or children:

- Staff or children testing positive for COVID-19 by PCR or rapid antigen test should isolate for 5 days, regardless of vaccination status.

Household or other close contacts of symptomatic staff or children or confirmed case(s) of COVID-19:

- Staff or children who are contacts may continue to attend the facility, regardless of vaccination status, unless they develop symptoms and/or test positive for COVID-19.

Child care facilities are essential services. They should not be closed for public health reasons unless directed to do so by a Medical Health Officer. Facilities experiencing illness amongst staff may need to close for operational reasons if they are unable to maintain staff to child ratios as required under the Child Care Licensing Regulation.

If you require further information please contact your licensing officer.

Regards,

Mark Lysyshyn MD MPH FRCPC
Deputy Chief Medical Health Officer
Vancouver Coastal Health