

# COVID-19 and Rules for Personal Belonging: Child Care Settings and Schools

The Ontario Ministry of Education's guidance documents, *Operational Guidance During COVID-19 Outbreak – Child Care Reopening and Guide to Reopening Ontario's Schools*, provide the following directions about bringing personal items to child care settings and schools during the COVID-19 pandemic:

- Personal belongings brought to school and child care settings should be minimized
- Personal belongings should be labeled and kept in the child's cubby/locker/designated area

Public Health Ontario has indicated that there is little evidence for transmission of COVID-19 from surfaces.

## **Additional Considerations for Personal Belongings:**

- Items that children bring to child care settings and schools should be maintained in a clean and sanitary manner
- Winter clothing (such as coats, hats, mittens) should be laundered as needed, and especially when visibly soiled
- Cloth masks (face coverings) should be changed and cleaned regularly, and if they become damp or soiled
- Children should be provided with a method for storing their masks for reuse. Public Health Ontario recommends folding a mask in on itself (so as to avoid touching the front of the mask) and then storing it in a clean paper bag (discard after each use) or a container with a lid (clean and disinfect after each use).
- Cloth masks can be washed with regular laundry, using regular detergent and hot water (60-90C); masks should be dried thoroughly on the highest temperature possible

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COVID-19 Info-Line 905-688-8248 press 7 Toll-free: 1-888-505-6074

Created December 10, 2020. Information about COVID-19 is evolving. Guidance from the Federal and Provincial governments change often. Refer to our website.

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## **Safe Use of Cubbies and Lockers During the COVID-19 Pandemic:**

- Children must practice proper physical distancing while accessing cubbies/lockers
- Where spacing permits, it is recommended that every other cubby/locker be used
- Staggered access to cubbies/lockers (a few children/students at a time) is recommended
- It may be necessary to supervise children/students while they are at their cubbies/lockers to ensure that physical distancing is maintained
- If cubbies have hooks for storage of items, items should be spaced so that they do not come into contact with another person's belongings
- Cubbies/lockers must be maintained in a clean and sanitary manner
- Cubbies/lockers should be cleaned and disinfected between use by different children/students
- Frequently touched surfaces should be cleaned and disinfected twice daily; cubbies/lockers could be treated as a high-touch surface depending on how often they are accessed throughout the day
- The child care setting/school should establish how frequently cubbies/lockers require thorough cleaning and disinfection

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