

Making Your Child Care Centre a Healthy Environment



A Fact Sheet for Child Care Operators and Staff

York Region Community and Health Services is mandated to inspect all child care centres to ensure compliance with food safety regulations, infection control and safe water standards. This fact sheet is provided for information and guidance to child care centre operators.

Water Outages at Your Child Care Centre

All water outages must be reported to York Region Community and Health Services Department, Health Protection Division at 1-800-361-5653. It is important to have a contingency plan in place, alternate emergency sites available, and if applicable, contact numbers for water haulers. You may also want to consider having a supply of bottled water, hand sanitizer, disposable utensils and disposable gloves on-site and ready for use. Remember to check “best before” dates or expiry dates for any supplies stored on-site. When there is no water available, the following control measures must be followed:

Water for drinking

- Use only bottled water or water from a water cooler
- Have water supplied from an approved water hauler

Food preparation

- Commercially bottled water must be used to wash, rinse or soak food products (i.e., fruits and vegetables)
- Food may be catered in from another commercially approved source (i.e., pizza)
- Pre-packaged food products may be provided
- Single-use, disposable dishware and utensils must be used

Hand washing

- Disposable moistened towelettes may be used to clean soiled hands
- Alcohol-based hand sanitizers containing between 60-90% alcohol must be available
- Ensure children are supervised when using hand sanitizers

Disinfectant

- Have a premixed solution (i.e., no mixing with water required) available on-site at all times **or** have a supply of commercially bottled water available to mix disinfectants



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For more information, please call
York Region Health Connection 1-800-361-5653 TTY: 1-866-252-9933
www.york.ca


York Region



Diapering

- Use disposable moistened towelettes, alcohol-based hand sanitizers and disposable gloves when diapering children
- Staff and children's hands must be cleaned with hand sanitizer after diapering
- Disinfect diaper areas with a premixed solution after each child has been changed

Toileting

- Ensure a supply of water is available for flushing toilets manually (i.e., manual fill method)

Laundry

- Off-site laundry facility should be considered for laundry needs

If your child care centre is without water for more than 24 hours, consider alternate operating sites until water is available at your centre. Water usage should not resume until the lines are flushed and the chlorine residual is acceptable (0.05 mg/L Free Available Chlorine or 0.25 mg/L Combined Chlorine).

In the event of an outbreak, contact your Public Health Inspector for further direction.



For further information, contact
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