



**COMMUNITIES
TOGETHER** FOR CHILDREN

Toys, Play Materials and Environmental Cleaning and Disinfecting

5. COVID-19 Toys, Materials & Environmental Cleaning & Disinfecting

Date: October 5, 2020

CATEGORY: Health and Safety

REVISED: February 11, 2022

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to provide clear direction for cleaning and disinfecting of toys and play materials, as well as environmental cleaning and disinfecting practices in EarlyON Programs; in accordance with the Ministry of Education *Operational Guidance During COVID-19 Outbreak: EarlyON Re-Opening*. This policy is designed to help reduce risk of the spread of illness, including COVID-19.

Policy

The risk associated with transmission with shared objects is low. Instead of regular cleaning of shared objects, the focus should be on regular hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette to reduce the risk of infection related to shared equipment. This is especially the case for young children where shared equipment is important for learning (for example, toys for imaginative play, manipulatives for math). In consideration of the increased health risk associated with the spread of COVID-19, EarlyON Service Providers are required to strictly adhere to environmental cleaning and disinfecting procedures, as described in this document.

In consideration of the increased health risk associated with the spread of COVID-19, Communities Together for Children EarlyON programs will strictly adhere to environmental cleaning and disinfecting procedures, as described in this document.

Procedures

- Strict distancing/masking will be maintained as well as cleaning and disinfecting of shared spaces/equipment between users (pre-registration open model).
- Cohort Model will require distancing and masking as well as cleaning of space and equipment between each cohort.
- Frequently touched surfaces (high touched surfaces) will be cleaned and disinfected at least twice a day as they are most likely to become contaminated, this includes (but is not limited to) doorknobs, light switches, counter tops, chairs/table tops not used for eating, toilet handles, toilet seats (unless visibly soiled), faucet handles, hand washing sinks, bathroom counter tops and electronic devices.

- Other shared items such as iPads, photocopier, attendance binders etc. must be cleaned and disinfected between each user.
- Clean and disinfect both children and employee washrooms (including high touched surfaces within the washrooms) twice daily and at the end of each day.
- Designate toys to each cohort (as much as possible)
- Indoor and outdoor toy cleaning/disinfection frequency **once daily** (within each cohort area) with emphasis on hand hygiene. If the toys will be used by more than one cohort, they must be cleaned and disinfected in between cohort use.
- Communities Together for Children EarlyON will keep a cleaning and disinfection log to track and demonstrate cleaning schedules.

Commonly used cleaners and disinfectants are effective against COVID-19:

Communities Together for Children EarlyON program will use QUATROMYICIDE V for sanitizing and disinfecting WITH AN ELECTROSTATIC SPRAYER

Directions for Use:

For use on hard non-porous surfaces such as doors, walls, metal surfaces, porcelain and plastic surfaces.

Dilute according to the dilution rates mentioned on the label in potable water. Apply using a mop, sponge, cloth, or trigger sprayer.

Disinfection: Heavily soiled surfaces must be cleaned prior to disinfection. Thoroughly apply diluted solution to wet the surface. For disinfection, allow to remain wet for 10 minutes then remove excess liquid.

Sanitizing: To sanitize surfaces, clean surface with a good detergent and rinse with potable water. Spray the solution onto the surface to thoroughly wet the surface. Allow the surface to remain thoroughly wet for at least 60 seconds. Remove excess liquid and allow to air dry on the treated surface. No rinsing required.

Cleaning Blood/Body Spills

- Use gloves for protection when cleaning blood/body spills.
- Hands must be washed immediately after unprotected exposure to blood or fluids capable of transmitting blood borne pathogens.
- Hands must be washed after removing gloves.
- Hands must be washed after a glove tear or a suspected glove leak.
- Hands must be washed after handling materials that may be contaminated with blood or body fluids capable of transmitting blood borne pathogens.

Play Structures:

- A **Play Structure Cleaning and Disinfecting Log** shall be kept. This log must be accessible to all employees (e.g. posted in the relevant program area, or in a binder kept in an accessible location);
- In dedicated Communities Together for Children's EarlyON program spaces (both indoor and outdoor) if climbers and other fixed play structures are to be used, all high touch surfaces must be cleaned and disinfected prior to use each day, and between individuals (pre-registration open model) or between cohorts (cohort model). Surfaces are also to be cleaned and disinfected more frequently, as necessary (e.g. visibly dirty, or contaminated with body fluids).

Communities Together for Children EarlyON Program Space:

- Employees are encouraged not to bring personal items into the program area or unless the item will be needed throughout the day (e.g. a water bottle, keys etc.);
- An Environmental Cleaning and Disinfecting Log (**Appendix C**) will be kept for each Communities Together for Children's EarlyON program room/area. This log will be accessible to all employees.
- All high touch areas, such as door knobs and light switches must be cleaned and disinfected in between program sessions, at a minimum twice daily and as often as necessary (e.g. when visibly dirty, or if contaminated with body fluids); High touch areas include but are not limited to: shelves containing children's toys, tables, chairs, light switches, doorknobs, counter tops, sinks, electronic devices, and walls within children's reach.
- All low touch areas, such as walls within children's reach and floors must be cleaned and disinfected at a minimum, once daily and as often as necessary (e.g. when visibly dirty or contaminated with body fluids). Low touch areas include but are not limited to: floors, walls in proximity to high touch areas, door surfaces, and window ledges.
- All fabric items, such as pillows, stuffed animals, puppets, and dress up clothes will be removed from the play environment;
- If a blanket is brought by a participant, it should only be handled by that participant (and their child/ren). Blankets may be provided by the EarlyON program. Blankets/Sheets must be placed on the fabric or leather seating and changed between users. These must be laundered between each user and staff must ensure hand hygiene is practiced after handling these blankets and or sheets;
- Ensure that any tablets or other electronic devices shared between staff are disinfected between users;
- Any carpeting or upholstered furniture in the room must be vacuumed daily and maintained in a sanitary condition;
- Trash cans located within children's reach must have a lid;
- If storage for participant's personal items is required (e.g., strollers, diaper bags, etc.), social distancing must be maintained. Appropriate signage and floor markers are in place to remind everyone of social distancing requirement.
- These storage areas will be cleaned and disinfected between Communities Together for Children EarlyON program sessions.

Washrooms:

- For each washroom in use for Communities Together for Children's EarlyON programs a **Washroom Environmental Cleaning and Disinfecting Log** shall be kept. This log must be accessible to all staff (e.g. posted nearby the washroom, or in a binder kept in an accessible location);
- Washrooms must be cleaned and disinfected, between users: toilet handles, toilet seats, faucet handles, soap dispenser, door locks, doors
- Trash cans located within children's reach must have a lid;

Toys and Play Materials:

- A **Toy Cleaning and Disinfecting Log** will be kept. This log will be accessible to all employees (e.g. posted in the room, or in a binder kept in an accessible location);
- All toys and play materials provided by Communities Together for Children's EarlyON will be made of materials that can be cleaned and disinfected;
- All toys and play materials offered will be cleaned and disinfected between each program. Hand hygiene must be practiced by anyone entering the EarlyON setting and incorporated into the daily schedule at regular intervals during the day, above and beyond what is usually recommended (for example, before eating food, after using the washroom).;
- Any mouthed toys must immediately be removed until cleaned and disinfected;
- If sensory materials (e.g., playdough, water, sand, etc.) are offered, emphasis should be placed on hand hygiene before and after the use of materials;
- Any toys that children are likely hold against their faces (e.g. binoculars, magnifying glasses) must be treated as per mouthed toys, and removed for cleaning and disinfection after each use;
- Items that cannot be easily cleaned and disinfected (e.g. books) will be used on a rotational basis only, removed after each use and stored in a sealed container for a minimum of 7 days.