

December 29, 2021

Dear Child Care Operator:

On December 15, 2021, you received a letter regarding interim measures in place for licensed child care programs in response to the emergence the new COVID-19 variant. These measures included contact notification from Alberta Health Services (AHS) if there is a case that is suspected or confirmed to have the Omicron variant.

Children's Services has received notice from Alberta Health that, due to the rapid rise in cases, AHS is no longer able to provide case investigations or exposure notifications for any cases, Omicron or otherwise, in daycares. Effective immediately, case investigations will be shifted to the highest risk priority settings such as congregate care and health care facilities. Staff or attendees who test positive will still be notified of a positive test result and they will receive a call to ensure they are aware of their isolation requirements. Individuals who test positive on a rapid or PCR test are encouraged to notify the child care operator.

AHS will now be reverting back to the procedures outlined in the guidance documents for child care centres and family day homes, which have been in place for some time. These procedures include the following:

- 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. 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 would include unvaccinated childcare 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).

As a reminder, you can find the complete guidance document here

<https://open.alberta.ca/publications/covid-19-information-guidance-preschool-day-care-and-out-of-school-care-child-care>

Alberta continues to closely monitor the spread of this variant and modify our response as the situation unfolds. You can find the latest information on COVID-19 in Alberta and the measures in place to limit the spread at www.alberta.ca/covid19.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T Brudler', written in a cursive style.

Tania Brudler
Executive Director