

EarlyON

Child and Family Centre

EarlyON COVID-19
Parent Handbook
September 2021

Welcome

Huron EarlyON facilitators are excited to welcome back children, parents, and caregivers to in-person programs throughout Huron County. With guidance from the Ministry of Education and Huron Perth Public Health (HPPH), EarlyON facilitators have worked to develop and revise policies and procedures that will ensure children, families, and caregivers can return to our in-person programs in a manner that maximizes their health and well-being while continuing to engage in valuable early year's programs and services.

Huron EarlyON facilitators understand that participants and community partners may have many questions as the County of Huron moves forward with the reopening of in-person programs. We hope that this handbook will communicate the information needed to ease any possible concerns or questions. If you are not ready to resume in person program, no worries, we will be continuing to offer virtual programs and services.

By taking a measured approach to in-person programs, we can help to protect children, their caregivers and staff, while supporting our mission to provide opportunities for children from birth to 6 years of age to participate in play and inquiry based programs and support parents and caregivers in their role.

Huron EarlyON facilitators are committed to creating safe and engaging play environments for our participants. During this time, when physical safety is a priority, we also understand that our programs can allow children to explore, gain new skills and build confidence in their abilities while providing parents and caregivers with meaningful conversations of support as they navigate their journey of raising young children. Within an environment that ensures all health and safety measures are met, a focus on the overall well-being and emotional wellness of all our participants remains important in our programs.

Participants are asked to read through this handbook before attending any Huron EarlyON programs.

All the information found in this handbook is subject to change based on recommendations from Huron Perth Public Health and the Ministry of Education.

Pre-Registration

All participants attending EarlyON in-person programs will be required to pre-register. Pre-registration will be completed either via email or by telephone for the program(s) they prefer to attend. Pre-registration is required for contact tracing, to complete an updated registration form, to sign new waivers, and to receive the screening tool link to complete before attending an in-person EarlyON program.

At this time, families that have not pre-registered will not be able to participate in an in-person EarlyON program.



EarlyON program schedules will be made available on Facebook, Instagram, and the [Huron County Website](#). Registration deadlines will be advertised for each program.

Due to the limited spaces available at program locations, participants may be asked to stagger the in-person programs they attend in order to ensure that more families have the opportunity to attend the in-person programs.

When necessary, a waitlist will be compiled for programs. If participants are unable to attend the program they are registered for, they are asked to contact the program immediately so that an effort can be made to fill the spaces with waitlist participants.

The attendance list created from the pre-registration information will be used by EarlyON facilitators as a sign-in tool. The information on this form may be required to be shared with Huron Perth Public Health should contact tracing be necessary.

Screening Procedures

Screening Questions:

Huron EarlyON will use the most up to date screen and screening process provided by the Huron Perth Health Unit, Ministry of Education, or Ontario Public Health. **These screening measures will be modified from time to time to reflect public health and government requirements.**

On August 27, 2021, the Ministry of Education made update to the [COVID-19 school and child care screening tool](#) and the [COVID-19 screening tool for employees and essential visitors in schools and child care settings](#).

Updates to the screening tools reflect the latest advice from the Ministry of Health for schools, child care and other workplace settings.

Please note the Key changes to the screening tools include:

- Symptoms – in alignment with the Ministry of Health’s COVID-19 Reference Document for Symptoms, the screens now include a shortened list of symptoms that are most commonly associated with COVID-19. As per regular protocols, all sick individuals with any symptoms of illness – including those with symptoms not included on the screening tool – should stay home and seek assessment from their regular health care provider, if required.

- Consideration for immunization status - in alignment with the Ministry of Health’s COVID-19 Fully Immunized and Previously Positive Individuals: Case, Contact and Outbreak Management Interim Guidance, asymptomatic individuals who are fully immunized (equal to or more than 14 days after receiving their second dose of a two-dose COVID-19 vaccine series or their first dose of a one-dose COVID-19 vaccine series) or who were previously positive within the past 90 days and have since been cleared, are not required to isolate if they are in contact with an individual who is symptomatic or who tests positive for COVID-19, unless otherwise directed by the public health unit.

• Isolation period – in alignment with the Ministry of Health’s Management of Cases and Contacts of COVID-19 in Ontario and COVID-19 Guidance:

School Case, Contact, and Outbreak Management, asymptomatic high-risk close contacts of a case are now required to isolate for 10 days, unless they are fully immunized or previously tested positive, as above.

- Siblings and other people in the household of the individual identified as a high-risk close contact can go to school, child care or work, but must not leave the home for other non-essential reasons. Household members who are fully immunized or who previously tested positive for COVID-19 in the last 90 days and have since been cleared are not required to stay home.

• International travel – unvaccinated children under the age of 12 are now exempt from federal quarantine if they travelled in the company of someone who qualified for an exemption from quarantine based on vaccination status. However, they may not attend school or child care for 14 days after their arrival.

- Children may also continue to attend school or child care if their international travel was solely due to a cross border custody arrangement.

• Rapid testing – the screening tool now includes a question about a positive screen on a rapid antigen or home-based self-testing kit.

You will be asked to show verification that you have completed the tool the day of the program. If you have not completed the screen prior to the program, you will need to complete the screen at the registration table prior to entry. If you or your child fail the screen, you will not be able to enter the program. The latest screen is attached to the end of this document.

Illness and Exclusion

Should you or your child (ren) have any symptoms you are asked to not attend the in-person programs. Please follow the instructions based on the screening results using the [Ontario COVID-19 School and childcare screening tool](#).

Should your child or you become ill while attending an EarlyON program, you will be asked to leave the program. When you get home, please complete the [Ontario COVID-19 School and childcare screening tool](#) for either you or your child and follow the instructions based on the screening result.

Should the results of your screening tool recommend that you go for testing this will require participants to isolate away from in-person programs until the results are received. If participants decline to have a COVID test completed, then they are asked to remain away from in-person EarlyON programs for up to 14 days from the onset of the symptoms.

If you or your child exhibit COVID-like symptoms within 24hrs of attending a Huron EarlyON program, please follow the advice of your health care professional and/or HPPH and notify EarlyON if required.

Mask/Face Covering Requirements

Huron EarlyON facilitators will be wearing medical masks as well as eye protection during indoor, in-person programs.

Physical distancing will be encouraged, however, given the age of the participants, physical distancing may be difficult to maintain. Therefore, for indoor programs, adult participants will be required to wear a mask. Masks are not recommended for infants and toddlers up to the age of 2 years. Children over the age of 2 will be encouraged to wear a mask during indoor programs.



Participants can choose non-medical or cloth masks.

For outdoor programs, Huron EarlyON facilitators will set up a play environment or plan for activities that encourages physical distancing of 2 metres. If a distance of 2 metres cannot be maintained, masks are recommended for outdoor programs, otherwise, program participants will not need to wear a mask unless they prefer to do so.

Program Limits

Huron EarlyON in-person programs (both indoors and outdoors) will have limited group sizes to ensure the safety of all participants and to promote physical distancing. There will be signage at each program indicating the capacity limit. Please note, these numbers may be lower than provincial standard, so that programing can focus on the families in attendance and quality interactions.

Huron EarlyON facilitators will set up an inviting and engaging play area that supports children in playing with their parents/caregivers who are in their household and encourages distance between other children and adults. Visual cues (e.g. signage, posters) will be used to help participants support appropriate physical space between activities. Adults are encouraged to model physical distancing while in the program.

Hand Hygiene



All participants must use the alcohol based hand sanitizer provided before entering the play area.

Parents/Caregivers are asked to support their children with completing hand hygiene practices. With a greater emphasize on hand hygiene, participants may be asked to engage in hand washing or hand sanitization prior to some activities, such as sensory play.

Respiratory Etiquette

Parents/caregivers are asked to place any toys that have been in their child(ren)'s mouth in a designated bin to be cleaned. (These bins will be labeled and placed throughout the room for the EarlyON facilitators to clean and be disinfected before placing back out on the shelves). All will be encouraged to cough or sneeze into their elbow or a tissue and wash hands immediately after.

Snacks/Beverages

Parents/caregivers are asked to refrain from bringing food or drinks into the indoor program area. The consumption of food/drinks will not be permitted within the program room (with the exception of children needing to breastfeed or formula feed/water). If participants have any medical considerations requiring food or drink while within the Huron EarlyON program, they are asked to speak with the EarlyON facilitator.

Arrival and Departure

Participants are asked to:

- Arrive at program locations and leave these locations, within the set program times to ensure that Huron EarlyON facilitators have the proper time to clean play items and program locations. You will be asked to stagger your exit from the program in a manner that supports 2 metre physical distancing between participants.
- Use only the designated EarlyON program entrance/exit, as well as washrooms. Program participants will not be permitted in other areas of a building
- Respect physical distancing as other families enter the program please wait in your vehicle, or dress for the weather, if a program location does not have a large lobby to accommodate multiple participants entering at one time
- Only bring only the necessities into the program location to minimize extra items in the room. Huron EarlyON facilitators will make every effort to accommodate strollers and will support participants in their use of this stroller space as you enter/exit program rooms while respecting physical distancing

Enhanced Sanitary Practices

To support a safe and healthy program environment, Huron EarlyON facilitators will ensure the following:

- Program toys and equipment will be disinfected at the end of each program
- High touch areas (doors, tables, etc.) will be disinfected before and after the program and as needed throughout the program

- Parents/Caregivers continue to be responsible for the diapering/toileting of the children in their care. EarlyON staff will sanitize the bathroom at the beginning and end of the program or when visibly dirty throughout the program.
- Parents/Caregivers will place any toys mouthed by the children in their care in the designated bins in order for facilitators to clean and disinfect before further play
- The consumption of food/drinks will not be permitted within the program room (with the exception of breastfeeding or formula for infants)
- Emphasize on improved ventilation for indoor programs, including open window to improve fresh air circulation.
- Huron EarlyON facilitators will work closely with the community partner for any specific cleaning requirements based on each individual location.
- Huron EarlyON facilitators will be using disinfectants with appropriate Drug Identification Numbers (DIN). Information regarding the disinfectant product will be provided upon request.



Virtual Programming

Huron EarlyON is committed to providing virtual programming while we return to in person programs. A variety of virtual programming will continue to be available on Facebook and Zoom, with additional parent and child information on Instagram and the County of Huron Website. Follow us at Huron EarlyON

Well-being

You and your family's well-being is important to us. The on-going COVID-19 outbreak has caused anxiety, distress and other strong emotions in individuals, families and communities across the globe.

Feeling like you need to talk to someone or need more information? It's OK to ask for help!

The EarlyON Team: We are here to talk outside of program times. Have child related or parenting questions? Connect with us either by geographical area or by contacting a facilitator directly.

<p>Clinton, Seaforth, Exeter and Surrounding Area</p>	<p>Megan Disher ✉ earlyon@huroncounty.ca ☎ 519-482-8505 ext. 4205</p> <p>Sandra Skinn ✉ earlyon@huroncounty.ca ☎ 519-482-8505 ext. 4203</p>
<p>Goderich, Bayfield and Surrounding Area</p>	<p>Kelly Kyle ✉ kkyle@goderich.ca ☎ 519-524-9999</p>
<p>North Huron and Surrounding Area</p>	<p>Maria Walden and Brittany Weber ✉ winghamoeyc@northhuron.ca ☎ 519-482-8505 ext. 3516</p>

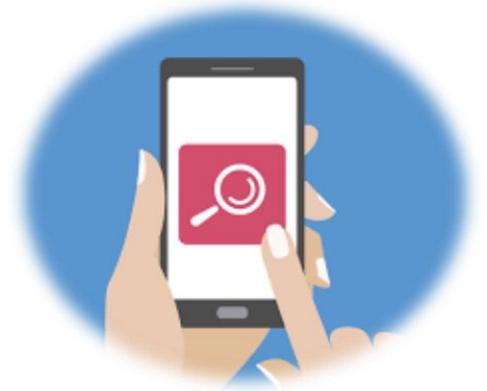
Here are some other local supports you can access:

- Huron Perth Helpline and Crisis Response Team: If you or someone you know needs mental health and/or addiction support, contact the 24-hour helpline at 1-888-829-7484.
- 211 (visit the website or just dial 211) is a free helpline that connects you to community and social services in your area 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, in over 150 languages.
- The Huron-Perth Centre for Children and Youth is an accredited community-based children’s mental health centre.

Prefer to search the web?

Useful Websites for helping your child:

- [Children's Mental Health Ontario](#)
- [Kids Help Phone](#)
- www.mindyourmind.ca
- www.kidsrelaxation.com
- www.mindcheck.ca



You may wish to visit the provincial COVID-19 website regularly for current information, as well as the Public Health Ontario public resources page for information to help stop the spread, find sector specific resources, including helpful posters, mental health resources, and other information

Recognizing that EarlyON programs may look different as a result of COVID-19, we strive to continue to deliver high-quality programs and services that support early learning and development, engage parents and caregivers and make connections for families through a variety of methods that support the health, safety, and well-being of children and families.

We are happy to welcome you back to in-person programs

The Huron EarlyON Team.

COVID-19 screening tool for students and children in school and child care settings

Version 1: August 26, 2021

Students and children must screen for COVID-19 every day before going to school or child care. Parents/guardians can fill this out on behalf of a child.

Date (mm-dd-yyyy) _____

Screening questions

1. Is the student/child currently experiencing any of these symptoms?

The symptoms listed here are the symptoms most commonly associated with COVID-19. Our guidelines for children and adults continue to evolve as we learn more about COVID-19, how it spreads, and how it affects people in different ways.

Choose any/all that are new, worsening, and not related to other known causes or conditions they already have.

Fever and/or chills Yes No
 Temperature of 37.8 degrees Celsius/100 degrees Fahrenheit or higher and/or chills

Cough or barking cough (croup) Yes No
 Continuous, more than usual, making a whistling noise when breathing (not related to asthma, post-infectious reactive airways, or other known causes or conditions they already have)

Shortness of breath Yes No
 Out of breath, unable to breathe deeply (not related to asthma or other known causes or conditions they already have)

Decrease or loss of taste or smell Yes No
 Not related to seasonal allergies, neurological disorders, or other known causes or conditions they already have

Nausea, vomiting and/or diarrhea Yes No
 Not related to irritable bowel syndrome, anxiety, menstrual cramps, or other known causes or conditions they already have

2. Did the student/child receive their final (or second in a two-dose series) COVID-19 vaccination dose more than 14 days ago, or have they tested positive for COVID-19 in the last 90 days and have since been cleared? Yes No
 If YES, skip questions 3, 4, 5.

3. Is someone that the student/child lives with currently experiencing any new COVID-19 symptoms and/or waiting for test results after experiencing symptoms? Yes No
 If the individual experiencing symptoms received a COVID-19 vaccination in the last 48 hours and is experiencing mild fatigue, muscle aches, and/or joint pain that only began after vaccination, select "No."

4. **In the last 10 days, has the student/child been identified as a “close contact” of someone who currently has COVID-19?** Yes No
If public health has advised you that you do not need to self-isolate, select “No.”
5. **In the last 10 days, has the student/child received a COVID Alert exposure notification on their cell phone?** Yes No
If they already went for a test and got a negative result, select “No.”
6. **In the last 14 days, has the student/child travelled outside of Canada AND:** Yes No
 - **been advised to quarantine as per the federal quarantine requirements**
 AND/OR
 - **is the student/child under the age of 12 and not fully vaccinated?**
 If travel was solely due to a cross border custody arrangement, select “No.”
7. **Has a doctor, health care provider, or public health unit told you that the student/child should currently be isolating (staying at home)?** Yes No
This can be because of an outbreak or contact tracing.
8. **In the last 10 days, has the student/child tested positive on a rapid antigen test or a home-based self-testing kit?** Yes No
If the student/child has since tested negative on a lab-based PCR test, select “No.”

Results of screening questions

! **If you answered “YES” to any of the symptoms included under question 1, do not go to school or child care.**

- The student/child must isolate (stay home) and not leave except to get tested or for a medical emergency.
- Talk with a doctor/health care provider to get advice or an assessment, including if the student/child needs a COVID-19 test.
 - Siblings or other people in your household must stay at home until the student/child showing symptoms tests negative, or is cleared by your public health unit, or is diagnosed with another illness. Household members who are fully vaccinated or previously positive for COVID-19 in the last 90 days and have since been cleared are not required to stay home.
- Contact your school/child care provider to let them know about this result.

! **If you answered “YES” to question 3, do not go to school or child care.**

- The student/child must isolate (stay home) and not leave except to get tested or for a medical emergency.
- The student/child can return to school or child care after the individual with symptoms tests negative, is cleared by your local public health unit, or is diagnosed with another illness.
- Contact your school/child care provider to let them know about this result.

! **If you answered “YES” to question 4, do not go to school or child care.**

- The student/child must isolate (stay home) for 10 days and not leave except to get tested or for a medical emergency.
- Talk with a doctor/health care provider to get advice or an assessment, including if they need a COVID-19 test. The student/child can only return to school/child care after 10 days, even if they get a negative test result, as long as they do not develop any symptoms.
 - Siblings and other people in your household can go to school, child care or work, but must not leave the home for other non-essential reasons. Household members who are fully vaccinated or previously positive for COVID-19 in the last 90 days and have since been cleared are not required to stay home.
- If the student/child develops symptoms or tests positive, contact your local public health unit or doctor/health care provider for more advice.
- Contact your school/child care provider to let them know about this result.

- !** **If you answered “YES” to question 5, do not go to school or child care.**
- The student/child must isolate (stay home) and not leave except to get tested or for a medical emergency.
 - Visit an assessment centre to get them a COVID-19 test.
 - If they test negative (they do not have the virus), they can return to school/child care.
 - If they test positive (they have the virus), they need to continue isolating and can return only after they are cleared by your local public health unit.
 - If they develop symptoms, contact your local public health unit or doctor/health care provider for more advice.
 - Siblings or other people in your household can go to school, child care or work, but must not leave the home for other, non-essential reasons until the individual who got the COVID alert tests negative, or is cleared by your local public health unit. Household members who are fully vaccinated or previously positive for COVID-19 in the last 90 days and have since been cleared are not required to stay home.
 - Contact your school/child care provider to let them know about this result.

- !** **If you answered “YES” to question 6, do not go to school or child care.**
- The student/child must follow federal guidelines for individuals who have travelled internationally, including not going to school/child care for 14 days after their arrival and getting tested as per federal requirements.
 - If the student/child has been directed to quarantine, they must stay home for 14 days and not leave except to get tested or for a medical emergency. For more information on federal requirements for travellers, please see the [Government of Canada's website](#).
 - If the student/child develops symptoms and/or tests positive, contact your local public health unit or doctor/health care provider for more advice.
 - Contact your school/child care provider to let them know about this result.

- !** **If you answered “YES” to question 7, do not go to school or child care.**
- The student/child must isolate (stay home) and not leave except to get tested or for a medical emergency.
 - Follow the advice of public health. The student/child can return to school/child care after they are cleared by your local public health unit.
 - If the student/child develops symptoms, contact your local public health unit or doctor/health care provider for more advice.
 - Siblings or other people in your household must stay at home until the student/child tests negative, or is cleared by your public health unit. Household members who are fully vaccinated or previously positive for COVID-19 in the last 90 days and have since been cleared are not required to stay home.
 - Contact your school/child care provider to let them know about this result.

- !** **If you answered “YES” to question 8, do not go to school or child care.**
- The student/child must isolate (stay home) and not leave except to get tested or for a medical emergency.
 - Visit an assessment centre to get them a COVID-19 test.
 - If they test negative (they do not have the virus), they can return to school/child care.
 - If they test positive (they have the virus), they need to continue isolating and can return only after they are cleared by your local public health unit.
 - If they develop symptoms, contact your local public health unit or doctor/health care provider for more advice.
 - Siblings or other people in your household must isolate until the individual who tested positive on the rapid antigen test or home-based self-testing kit tests negative on a PCR test or is cleared by the local public health unit. Household members who are fully vaccinated or previously positive for COVID-19 in the last 90 days and have since been cleared are not required to isolate.
 - Contact your school/child care provider to let them know about this result



If you answered “NO” to all questions, your child may go to school/child care. Follow your school/child care provider’s established process for letting staff know about this result.

As per regular protocols, all sick individuals with any symptoms of illness should stay home, and seek assessment from their regular health care provider if required. Individuals with severe symptoms requiring emergency care should go to their nearest emergency department. If an individual develops symptoms outside of the list above, the Public Health Unit may recommend other measures including testing based on an assessment of the individual's symptoms and exposure history.

Public Health Ontario – Contact Tracing

Answering these questions is optional. This information will only be used by Public Health officials for contact tracing. All information will be deleted in 28 days.

Date: _____

Name: _____

Phone or Email: _____