



Management of Symptomatic People in Daycare Centers (DCC) in Montreal

Direction régionale de santé publique de Montréal (Interim version : 2021-09-01)

This document applies to children from 6 months to 5 years who attend daycare centers on Montreal island, as well as adults who work there. For children from 0 to 6 months, please call 811 or get advice from a physician.

The algorithms contained in this document do not apply to people who have had COVID-19 in the previous **60 days**. If such a person develops symptoms, apply the pre-pandemic protocol. When in doubt, contact the brigade from your CIUSSS.

These algorithms apply to everyone else who attends a DCC, including low-, moderate- and high-risk contacts, as well as people who are considered to be *protected* by Public Health (Definition of “protected”: COVID-19 \leq 6 months **OR adequately vaccinated**¹).

This document is based on the **COVID-19 Symptom Self-Assessment** tool developed by the Quebec government. It should be used by the symptomatic person or a parent as soon as symptoms appear, to determine if he/she must get tested or have the child tested. It can also be useful for DCC directors when conducting the daily symptom questionnaire. Should a child or adult arrive at the DCC with symptoms (for example, their symptoms appeared over the weekend), the tool will need to be used retrospectively from the date the symptoms appeared.

Symptoms (Sx) to watch for

(NOTE : Nasal congestion and runny nose are no longer included in the self-assessment tool)

Fever :	Temperature of ≥ 38.5 °C rectal (child) or ≥ 38.1 °C oral (adult)
General Sx :	Sudden loss of sense of smell without nasal congestion with or without loss of taste, major fatigue, significant loss of appetite, generalized muscle pain (not related to physical exertion)
Respiratory Sx :	Cough (new or worse), shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, sore throat
Gastro-intestinal Sx :	Nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, stomach aches

Exclusion criteria for a child attending a daycare center

Any child who shows one or more of the above symptoms must be excluded from the daycare center. They should stay at home and avoid contact with others. The child should be reassessed after an observation period of 24 hours according to the “CHILD” algorithm on page 3.

IF THE CHILD IS A CONTACT OF A CASE, even LOW-RISK, the algorithm will be used in a different manner:

Exclude the child from daycare. Start immediately with BOX 1 of the “CHILD” algorithm on page 3 to determine if a test is recommended based on the child’s current symptoms.

- **If a test IS recommended** (ex.: the child has a cough): There is no 24-hour observation period. The child should be tested immediately.
- **If a test is NOT yet recommended** (ex.: the child vomited, but has no fever): The child should be reassessed after an observation period of 24 hours according to the “CHILD” algorithm in the usual manner.

Exclusion criteria for an adult working in a daycare center

For adults, there is NEVER a 24-hour observation period. The “ADULT” algorithm on page 4 must be applied immediately.

¹ Adequately vaccinated:

A person who has had COVID-19 more than 6 months ago AND who received 1 dose of vaccine (more than 7 days ago)
OR (2) A person who has received 2 doses of Pfizer, Moderna, AstraZeneca or COVISHIELD vaccine (more than 7 days ago)
OR (3) A person who has received 1 dose of Johnson & Johnson vaccine (more than 14 days ago).

1 - Note on residual cough

- In the context of COVID-19, cough is one of the most frequent symptoms and must be taken seriously. For this reason, a cough alone is reason enough for a test to be recommended – and for exclusion from daycare if the test is not done. However, after a viral infection a cough may persist, despite the fact that the person is no longer contagious.
- In order to avoid excluding someone from daycare longer than necessary should such a cough persist, a person:
 - who presented with a cough (+/- other symptoms)
 - AND had a NEGATIVE test (or who has completed their 10-day isolation period **from the onset of their symptoms**)
 - AND still presents a residual or persistent cough, no matter the type of cough→ may then return to the daycare center.

2 - Vaccines (other than COVID-19 vaccines) and associated symptoms

- Symptoms (fever, fatigue, vomiting, diarrhea and muscle pain) can appear after certain vaccinations given to children. They appear within 24 hours after a dose of inactivated vaccine or between 5 to 12 days after the MMR vaccine (typically given at 12 months and 18 months of age).
- If a child – who was NOT in contact with a positive case – develops one or more of these symptoms after a vaccination, they must be excluded for an observation period of 24 hours. If their symptoms improve or disappear over the following 48 hours, the child may return to the DCC as soon as they are well enough to attend. A test is not required. If the child was in contact with a positive case, follow the instructions on page 1.

3 - COVID-19 vaccines and associated symptoms

- Certain symptoms (headache, fatigue, body aches, joint pain, mild fever) may appear within 48 hours after vaccination against COVID-19. The affected person – as long as they were NOT in contact with a positive case – can work if their general condition allows it. A test is not required.
- If symptoms began BEFORE vaccination, appeared more than 48 hours AFTER vaccination, or include RESPIRATORY symptoms compatible with COVID-19 (cough, loss of smell or taste, difficulty breathing or sore throat), the “ADULT” algorithm on page 4 must be applied immediately.

4 - Other exclusion criteria

The following algorithms apply for symptomatic people who attend or work at a DCC. Other possible exclusion criteria still apply, for example if a child or worker:

- was **instructed to self-isolate by public health authorities** (ex.: a symptomatic person and their household members while awaiting their test result, a moderate or high-risk contact of a positive case, household members of a moderate or high-risk contact awaiting the contact’s test result, a person who tested positive for COVID-19).
- **lives with someone who has symptoms compatible with COVID-19**. Specifically, if a child or staff member has no symptoms, but lives with a symptomatic person (whether or not the latter has been tested), they should be excluded from the DCC – unless they are considered to be protected – until that person has tested negative. This also applies to recognized home childcare providers (RHCP): if a member of their family has symptoms, the RHCP cannot open their home daycare until a negative result is received. If the test is refused, contact us for instructions.
- **recently travelled** outside of Canada AND **must undergo a quarantine** (14 days) according to federal decree. A person who has not travelled, but lives with a person who has recently travelled, may continue to attend the DCC as long as the traveller and the person in question have no symptoms.

*This document is valid as of **September 1st, 2021**. Directors of DCC may direct their questions to **The COVID-19 Daycare Outbreak Prevention and Management Team of the DRSP de Montréal** by calling **514-265-2243**. Any decision made by a public health authority and based on a clinical judgment specific to a given situation will take precedence over this document.*



