

Publication of Child Care Centre Infection Control Inspection Results

Date: October 10, 2025

To: Board of Health

From: Medical Officer of Health

Wards: All

SUMMARY

Toronto Public Health (TPH) conducts annual infection prevention and control (IPAC) inspections at all licensed child care centres (CCCs) in Toronto as directed by the [Infection Prevention and Control Protocol](#) of the Ontario Public Health Standards. This report outlines TPH's plan to begin public disclosure of the results of these inspections online as directed by that protocol.

On January 1st, 2026, TPH will launch the CCC IPAC inspection results website. The website will include information on routine inspections, complaint investigations, and re-inspections. Modelled on the [DineSafe](#), [BodySafe](#) and [SwimSafe](#) websites, the CCC IPAC inspection results website will have similar functionality as other inspection portals. This includes a searchable database listing the CCC, the date of the most recent CCC IPAC inspection, the nature of observed deficiencies, and outcome of the inspection (e.g. satisfactory, re-inspection required or closure). Inspection results of CCCs will also be presented on a map to enable searching by location. This initiative promotes transparency, strengthens public awareness, and ensures alignment with Ontario Ministry of Health standards.

Leading up to January 1, 2026, TPH will work with CCC operators and administrators to provide training and guidance to ensure that they are prepared for the implementation of this disclosure. TPH will also promote the new website to parents and guardians to make them aware of this new source of information.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Medical Officer of Health recommends that:

1. the Board of Health endorse the launch of Toronto Public Health's child care centre inspection results website on January 1, 2026.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

There is no financial impact associated with this report.

The Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer has reviewed the report and agrees with the financial impact information in the Financial Impact Section.

DECISION HISTORY

On April 8, 2019, the Board of Health adopted item HL4.5 - Disclosure of Infection Prevention and Control Inspections of Licensed Child Care Centres in Toronto, which provided information about The Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care's (MOHLTC) (now known as the Ministry of Health) new requirement, through the Infection Prevention and Control Disclosure Protocol, 2018, that all IPAC inspections of licensed child care centres (CCCs) be made available online.

<https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2019.HL4.5>

COMMENTS

Regulatory Framework of Licensed Child Care Centres: Inspections and Disclosure Requirements

The Ontario Public Health Standards (OPHS) and accompanying program-specific protocols establish the minimum requirements for public health programs and services to be delivered by Ontario Boards of Health. Under the [Infection Prevention and Control Protocol, 2022](#), public health inspectors (PHIs) are responsible for conducting annual infection prevention and control (IPAC) inspections at child care centres (CCCs) in Toronto that are licensed by the Ontario Ministry of Education.

Effective July 1, 2018, the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, now known as the Ministry of Health, published the *Infection Prevention and Control Disclosure Protocol, 2018* requiring Boards of Health to publicly disclose the results of all IPAC inspections for licensed CCCs online. The implementation of the requirement has been delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This report provides the plan for meeting this disclosure requirement.

The Ministry of Education oversees the licensing of CCCs and enforcement of all aspects of the *Child Care and Early Years Act, 2014*, including compliance with any directions of the Medical Officer of Health. Results of annual licensing and any monitoring inspections by the Ministry of Education are given to the operator and are posted on the province's website (<http://www.iaccess.gov.on.ca/LCCWWeb/childcare/search.xhtml>).

Food safety inspections (under *Ontario Regulation 493/17: Food Premises*), also conducted by TPH, may be done concurrently with IPAC inspections. Food Safety inspections by TPH PHIs for licensed CCCs are disclosed online through TPH's DineSafe website (<https://www.toronto.ca/health/dinesafe/>). The outcomes of these inspections are posted at the CCC under *Ontario Regulation 493/17*.

Toronto Children's Services also conducts annual quality assurance assessments of CCCs under service contracts to the City of Toronto for fee subsidies or other funding. This quality rating covers several domains including following regional/local public health procedures. CCCs that have been assessed have a "Quality Makes a Difference" sticker displayed at their centre. Individual quality ratings are posted on a City of Toronto webpage (<https://www.toronto.ca/data/children/dmca2z/a2za.html>) and a parent can request written reports from the child care supervisor.

Regulatory Framework for Posting Signs Containing Inspection Results

Under *Ontario Regulation 493/17: Food Premises* every operator of a food premise is required to post a sign containing the outcome of the most recent food safety inspection. There is no equivalent legal requirement that would apply to IPAC inspections at CCCs requiring inspection results to be posted at CCCs. In addition, the MOH *Infection Prevention and Control Disclosure Protocol 2022* does not list posting a sign at the CCC with inspection results as a requirement. As a result, TPH cannot require CCC operators to post a sign that reflects the outcome of an IPAC inspection.

Inspections of CCCs by Toronto Public Health

IPAC inspections cover several areas including review of administrative health policies of the CCC, observation of cleaning and disinfection practices, hand hygiene, and inspection of washroom and diapering areas. PHIs also attend CCCs to investigate complaints and to respond to outbreaks of infectious diseases, in collaboration with TPH Control of Infectious Diseases staff, per the *Infection Prevention and Control Complaint Protocol, 2022*.

CCCs have high rates of compliance with IPAC requirements. IPAC inspection pass rates have increased to nearly 100% post-pandemic (Table 1). TPH has not identified any CCC operator that consistently fails to pass their annual IPAC inspection nor any geographic differences in pass rates across the City. Under the protocol, TPH has the power to close a CCC if significant IPAC issues are identified. TPH has not closed a CCC due to an IPAC inspection since 2018.

When an IPAC complaint in a CCC is received by TPH, a PHI will respond by initiating an investigation within 24 hours (or the next business day) of receiving the complaint. The PHI follows up with the person who made the complaint to discuss findings, actions and the outcome of the investigation. The outcome of the inspection will be posted on the CCC inspection disclosure website. In the event that an IPAC lapse is identified during the course of an investigation, information will be posted on TPH's Infection Prevention & Control (IPAC) Investigations webpage.

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Total number of CCCs	1,009	1,023	1,049	1,048	1,056	1,086	1,016	1,027	1,051
% of CCCs visited at least once	80%	78%	81%	79%	31%	43%	99%	99%	99%
Total IPAC inspections completed	808	793	846	828	320	477	1,115	1,084	1,154
Satisfactory (%)	712 (88%)	711 (90%)	742 (88%)	751 (91%)	296 (93%)	459 (96%)	1,077 (97%)	1,039 (96%)	1,107 (96%)
Re-inspections	96 (12%)	82 (12%)	104 (12%)	77 (9%)	24 (8%)	18 (4%)	38 (3%)	45 (4%)	47 (4%)
Complaints	247	206	49	83	192	20	204	155	195
Number of closures	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0

Table 1: Licensed CCC IPAC inspection compliance and completion statistics 2016 to 2024

Description of the Disclosure of Inspections Website

On January 1st, 2026, TPH will launch the CCC IPAC inspection results website. Modelled on the [DineSafe](#), [BodySafe](#), and [SwimSafe](#) websites, the CCC IPAC inspection results website will have similar functionality as other inspection portals. This includes a searchable database listing the CCC, the date of the most recent CCC IPAC inspection, the nature of observed deficiencies, and outcome of the inspection (e.g. satisfactory, re-inspection required or closure). Inspection results of CCCs will also be presented on a map to enable searching by location. The information will be retained on the website for up to two years.

This disclosure website is anticipated to have the following benefits:

- Ensure that TPH and the Board of Health meet Ministry of Health requirements under the OPHS.
- Enhance program transparency and accountability, in alignment with the priorities of the Ministry of Health.
- Potential to further improve operator compliance with IPAC requirements and best practices.
- Increase the public's awareness about TPH's inspection program of licensed CCCs.

Support for CCC Operators and Community Engagement

In early October 2025, TPH informed CCC operators about the disclosure requirement and upcoming information sessions to ask questions. TPH also notified CCC operators

about four new e-learning modules to support compliance with IPAC inspections. These modules include information on how to pass an IPAC inspection, breaking the chain of infection, environmental cleaning and disinfection, and outbreak control.

In early 2026, TPH will promote the disclosure website through its social media channels to increase awareness among parents. Updated program information will be available to TPH staff to answer questions about the upcoming disclosure requirement. PHIs have been provided training about the new IPAC inspection results website and can answer questions from CCC operators.

Next Steps

TPH will host two virtual townhalls in late October and one in-person event in November 2025 to allow CCC operators to have their questions answered about the IPAC disclosure process. TPH will provide CCC operators with updates about the initiative by email prior to and at the time of the web disclosure system launch.

Upon its launch on January 1st, 2026, TPH will promote this new system to parents through various channels.

Toronto Public Health Strategic Impact

The launch and implementation of the child care centre infection prevention and control inspections website supports priorities outlined in TPH Strategic Plan 2024-2028, specifically:

- #1 Strengthen health protection, disease prevention and emergency preparedness.
- (c) Effectively communicate with the public about how they can protect their health.

CONTACT

Dr. Michael Finkelstein, Deputy Medical Officer of Health, Toronto Public Health, 416-392-7405, Michael.Finkelstein@toronto.ca

SIGNATURE

Dr. Michelle Murti
Medical Officer of Health