

Toy Washing and Disinfecting Policy and Procedures –COVID-19

Policy Statement

Toronto Early Learning & Child Care Services (TELCCS) is committed to providing a safe and healthy environment for children, families and employees. TELCCS will take every reasonable precaution to prevent the risk of communicable diseases within all our locations.

Purpose

To ensure that all employees are aware of, and adhere to, the directive established by Toronto Public Health (TPH), and Children's Services in all TELCCS locations.

Application

This policy applies to all employees, students, and any others persons engaged in business with TELCCS.

Procedure

The disinfection of toys is vital to ensuring the health and safety of children as it reduces and mitigates the potential spread of germs and viruses among children and those who may come into contact with them.

When disinfecting, only approved products can be used. Please see the list of approved products to be used in concentrate, spray and wipe form:

1. Oxivir Tb and Oxivir Five 16
2. Optim 33tb and Optim 1
3. Accel INTERVention
4. Peroxigard

All toys that are plush must be removed and not used in play, these include, stuffed animals, hand puppets, cloth toys etc.. All porous toys or materials that cannot be effectively cleaned and disinfected must be removed and not used in play.

Toy Washing Procedures - Cleaning and Disinfection using a Mechanical Dishwasher

It is recommended that the dishwasher be used for toy washing whenever possible:

- The rinse cycle must meet a minimum of **82 degrees Celsius**
- Only use the dishwasher in the kitchen when it is not being used for any other purposes (i.e. washing dishes, food preparation, serving)
- Toys are placed evenly on the dishwashing racks and are an appropriate size to ensure they will not fall into the basin

- Toys are removed carefully once the wash cycle is complete as they may be hot or contain hot water
- Toys are air dried in a designated area that is separate from bathrooms or change tables and protected from sources of contamination
- The kitchen is clean and tidy when you have completed toy washing

Toy Washing Procedures - Manual Cleaning and Disinfection

4 Bin – 5 Step Method for Disinfecting Toys using Disinfectant Concentrate i.e., Oxivir Five 16 Concentrate (5 min contact time)

To ensure consistent and proper dilution of the concentrated product, such as Oxivir Five 16, mixing instructions found on 'Oxivir Five 16 Concentrate Dilution Procedure', and 'Mixing Instructions- Oxivir Five 16 into 1 Gallon Jugs', MUST be followed and posted where mixed. Designated child care staff will be responsible for mixing the solution for program use and custodial staff will mix the solution for general cleaning use. Ensure personal protective equipment is always worn when mixing. Staff must use test strips to test the concentration of the Oxivir Five 16 in the jugs. Please refer to test strips containers for instructions on use.

Small toys that can be immersed in water should use the 4 Bin- 5 Step method for washing. Please following the steps below:

1. Sink/Bin - wash with soap and warm water to clean visible dirt
2. Sink/Bin - rinse soap off with clean water
3. Sink/Bin - soak in disinfectant mixture for the appropriate contact time to disinfect
4. Sink/Bin - rinse using clean water
5. Air dry toys by placing them on a drying tray

Toy Washing Procedures - Cleaning and Disinfecting Large Toys/Equipment

Large toys, wooden toys, cots, cribs, etc. that cannot be immersed in a disinfectant solution should use this method for washing. Please follow the steps below:

1. Clean with soap and water using a cloth
2. Wipe with a clean wet cloth to rinse
3. Disinfect with approved disinfectant and have it remain wet on the surface for the appropriate contact time. Do not spray product on toys and surfaces when children or other staff are nearby
4. A final rinse is required using a single-use wet paper towel
5. Allow toys to air dry

Tips & Reminders

- Fill the bucket only to a level that is comfortable for transporting to the area you use for toy washing – a trolley can also be used to assist with transporting.
- Unused test strips must be kept dry and in a dark space.
- When a new bottle of test strips is opened the date opened should be written on the bottle.
- Test strips expire six (6) months after the container is opened. Any unused test strips must be discarded after 6 months as they are no longer effective.

- Refer to the manufacturers label for all approved disinfectants for further information or review.

Frequencies and Toy Cleaning

- Toy cleaning schedules will be posted in each area and updated daily by the staff person responsible for the area
- Playroom toys must be assigned to cohorts and cleaned and disinfected daily and as often as necessary (e.g., when visibly dirty, contaminated, or if used by a symptomatic individual)
- Toys that have been mouthed or become contaminated must be either cleaned and disinfected immediately or placed in a designated dirty toy bin. The bin must be clearly labelled and inaccessible to children
- Outdoor play equipment: must be cleaned and disinfected daily, between use by cohorts, and as often as necessary (e.g., when visibly dirty, contaminated or if used by a symptomatic individual). Alternatively, outdoor play equipment can be batched and rotated weekly
- Shared indoor gross motor areas: toys and equipment must be cleaned and disinfected between cohorts, daily and as often as necessary (e.g., when visibly dirty, contaminated or if used by a symptomatic individual)
- Ensure that hand hygiene is completed before and after cleaning/disinfecting practices
- Refer to Cleaning and Disinfecting Schedule –COVID-19 and Environmental Cleaning and Disinfecting Policy and Procedures – COVID-19 for additional guidance

Policy and Procedure Review

This policy and procedure will be reviewed and signed off by all employees before commencing employment/unpaid placement in a TELCCS locations, and at any time where a change is made.

Revised December 3, 2020