



Health Policy

Potential Health Risks & Return to Care

Parents/Guardians, children, employees, visitors, and volunteers must not enter the childcare space if they are unwell. If anyone within the home has any sudden onset of symptoms, fever/chills, vomiting, unexplained rash or skin infections, any form of untreated infestation or any symptoms/illness that may indicate a health risk, please keep all enrolled children home until they are symptom free and well enough to participate in regular activities per the Stay-at-Home Guide (attached).

If a child is absent from the program due to any illness or health reason, this should be reported via Lillio, email and/or text/call. If your child is home sick, any siblings enrolled must also be kept home, even if they are not yet showing symptoms.

Families must follow the Stay-at-Home Guide (attached) for when a child is unable to attend or returning to the program, from being ill. Children or employees may return to the facility when they no longer pose a health risk to others and can fully participate in the program activities.

Developing Symptoms at Ridge Kids Playcare Corp Facility

If a child develops symptoms or illness while at the program, an Educator will contact the Parent/Guardian or emergency contact of the child to arrange for immediate pick-up. If the Parent/Guardian or emergency contact can not be reached, or declines to pick-up their child for any reason, Educators will immediately contact the Ridge Kids Playcare Director.

While awaiting pick-up isolation protocol will be followed per the Rapid Response Plan to ensure the child and rest of the children in the program are safe.



Stay at Home Guide

If your Child has any of these symptoms/ illnesses, please keep them at home.	Your child can return to care when they are well, can fully participate AND..
A continuous, new and/ or unexplained cough or shortness of breath*	Their symptoms have improved
Chill and/ or fever greater than 38.0 C (100.4 F)	Their fever has remained below 38.0 c (100.4 F) for twenty-four (24) hours <u>without</u> medication
Runny nose/ congestion, sore throat or headache/ earache	Their symptoms have improved
Unexplained Nausea, vomiting and/ or diarrhea	Their symptoms have improved, and they are eating regular or for gastrointestinal illnesses, after forty-eight (48) hours from symptoms resolving.
Conjunctivitis (pink eye)	They have seen a doctor and twenty-four (24) hours from when the first eye drops are given
Skin infection, new or unexplained rash or signs of any contagious disease	They have been examined by a doctor and have received medical clearance
Any form of untreated infestation (i.e head lice, bed bugs, scabies)	They have been treated and have no eggs or nits
Any symptoms or illness which require greater care and attention to be provided which compromises the care of other children attending the program	Their symptoms have improved and does not require greater care
Any symptoms or illness which the Educator knows or believes may indicate that the child poses a health risk to persons on the program premises	They have written notice from a doctor verifying the child does not pose a health risk to people on the premises

Children may return to Ridge Kids Playcare Corp. when they no longer pose a health risk to others, and they can fully participate in the program. *Ridge Kids Playcare Corp. reserves the right to contact Parents/ Guardians to pick up their child immediately if they feel their child is too ill to participate in the program.*

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Rapid Response Plan/ Supervised Care for Sick Children (Isolation Protocol)

Children attending Ridge Kids Playcare Corp, who appear to be unwell upon arrival or become unwell during care, should go home immediately and have a Parent/ Guardian follow the Stay at Home Guide.

Educators have the means to check temperatures of children if they feel the child may be unwell, temperature checks will be recorded on Lillio.

If the Child is ABLE to leave the immediately:

- All surfaces and areas where the child may have come in contact with will be cleaned and disinfected immediately. Educators will refer to the Cleaning and Disinfecting Guidelines for more information about the enhanced cleaning and disinfection practices for specific areas/ items within the facility.

If the Child is UNABLE to leave immediately:

- If the child is ill, they will be isolated in a separate area or where we can maintain two (2) meters distance from other children and can remain supervised by an Educator, while awaiting pick-up. If safely able to do so, a disposable mask will be suggested for the child to wear.

- Educators will be sure to mitigate any risk to the child and others while awaiting the child's pick-up.

- Child Educators will wear appropriate personal protective equipment to protect themselves from illness and avoid contact with the child's respiratory droplets.

- Educators will wash their hands before/ after donning their PPE, and before/ after touching any items used by the child.

- The child will be provided will everything possible to maintain their health and comfort while waiting for their parent/ guardian to arrive.

- All items that can not be disinfected (i.e paper, books, wood, etc.) will be stored in a sealed contained for a minimum of twenty-four (24) hours.



Pre-existing Conditions

If symptom(s) are due to a pre-existing condition, individuals can return to care with written documentation from medical professional, where possible, about the pre-existing condition(s).

Families, children and Educators are required to monitor and document symptoms that may be related to a pre-existing condition. If symptoms change or worsen, or if the individual develops new symptoms, they will have to follow the Stay-at-Home Guide prior to returning to Ridge Kids Playcare Corp.

New Medication or Medical Procedures

An individual may exhibit side effects to new medications and/ or medical procedures. Ridge Kids Playcare Corp will follow the guidance as indicated by medical professionals regarding attendance at the facility. A Child that exhibits any signs or symptoms outside of the clinically expected, must follow the Stay-at-Home Guide.

Immunizations

After getting immunized some individuals can have side effects such as fever, headache, cough, runny nose, and/or sore throat. Side effects will present within twenty-four (24) hours from immunization. For vaccines that protect against Measles, Mumps, Rubella and Varicella, side effects can begin to present from five (5) to twelve (12) day follow the vaccine. Although side effects tend to be mild, they can last anywhere from twenty-four (24) to forty-eight (48).

If the anticipated or expected side effects are exhibited by the immunized child within the clinically expected timeframe and then resolve within forty-eight (48) hours the child may return to Ridge Kids Place Corp. for childcare.



Health Care

Ridge Kids Playcare will provide or allow for the provision of health care to a child only when written consent of the Parent/ Guardian has been obtained or the health care provided is within the scope of first aid training. If first aid is administered, the Family will be informed and be required to sign the Incident/ illness report that was completed by the Educator(s) administering first aid.

Medications-Including Emergency

The Educators will administer medication to a child when the following are in place:

1. A Medication Administration form is signed by Parent/ Guardian
2. The Medication Administration form is completed entirely and accurately by the parents to include child name, date, consent, name of medication, reason for medication, start date, finish date (only applies to non emergent medication), times for each dosage, amount per dose. If this is an emergency medication, the times for dose are 'as needed' and symptoms to administer should be included.
3. Medication in it's original packaging with a pharmacy label clearly identifying the medication, who it is for the dosage to administer. This label must match the details outlined on the Medication Administration form.

Educators will not administer or allow the administration of medication that differs from the prescribed labeled name, dose, time, or directions. Over the counter (OTC) medication(s) cannot be administered.

For emergency medications (for asthma, diabetes, allergies, etc.) parents/guardians are required to complete the Medication Form, which will be kept with the emergency medication in the emergency go bag. A child that requires emergency medication, will not be checked into the program without the required medication.



Outbreaks

Childcare programs are responsible for identifying and reporting unusual occurrences of similar symptoms. Childcare programs will track the number of ill children as well as the symptoms reported by parents/guardians.

Ridge Kids Playcare is required to report all Outbreaks, as per the Alberta Health Services Outbreak Management - Guide for Outbreak Prevention and Control in Child Care Facilities. Ridge Kids Playcare will adhere to all recommendations made by Alberta Health Services.

Educators will take all necessary steps to clean and disinfect to prevent further spread of the outbreak. This may include:

- reduced/ eliminated play in high contact areas (i.e sensory areas)
- postponement of events bringing in family members/ visitors
- postponement of mixing of program groups and/ or equipment between groups
- use of face mask for Educators
- Removal of items that are difficult to clean or disinfect such as paper, books, cardboard puzzles, natural items, wooden items, etc.

Ridge Kids Playcare uses a bleach solution with a concentration of 1000 ppm, at all times during an outbreak, as a disinfectant for food contact surfaces and toys and will allow for it to air dry for one (1) minute prior to use.



Hygiene

Ridge Kids Playcare programs must adhere to handwashing guidelines outline in the Alberta Health Services Health and Safety Child Care Guidelines.

Children will be frequently reminded to follow proper hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette (wash hands frequently, sneeze cough into their elbow or tissue, dispose of used tissues in a waste receptacle and wash hands immediately after using tissue). Educators may assist children with hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette.

Signs will be posted with visual reminders around the program area to remind Children and Educators to perform proper hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette on a frequent basis.

All Educators and children must wash there hands minimally in the following situations:

- Upon entering the Playcare Facility and when entering a play space
- After using the washroom
- Before and after handling food
- Before and after outdoor play
- Before and after play with sensory items and natural items
- Before and after and interaction with pets
- Before and after the application of sunscreen or insect repellent

Reducing Health Risk

Ridge Kids Playcare will engage in the following practices to reduce the risk to health:

- Children and Educators must not attend the facility if feeling unwell
- Hold activities outdoors as much as possible
- Monitoring for proper handwashing and respiratory etiquette
- Enhance cleaning practices
- Plan for spaced activities
- Small group activities will limit the number of children in one area
- There will be staggering of children's participation of the shared program areas and materials
- Multiple activities will be available in each space to allow for less crowding



Head Lice

Head lice can spread quickly in groups of young children if not identified and treated immediately, regular head checks should occur at home to prevent the spread of lice. Head lice travel by way of children's belongings and are not a sign of poor hygiene, nor do they transmit disease. Children can not return to the program until they can be successfully treated with a medically approved chemical treatment (often found in local drugstores). Children can return to the program when there are no lice or nits (eggs) on the child's head. Daily checks of all the children should continue for seven (7) to ten (10) days following the identification of lice, to ensure the lice has not spread to others in the facility.

If a case of lice is reported in the program, the following steps will occur:

1. Children's belongings will be kept separate in their designated cubby.
2. All dress-up clothing and cloth materials (pillows, blankets, etc.) activities will be discontinued. Washable items will be laundered in hot water and a hot air dryer and stored until the lice has been resolved for a minimum of two (2) weeks.
3. Parents/guardians will be notified.

Bed Bugs

Bed bugs travel by way of children's belongings and are not a sign of poor hygiene, nor do they transmit disease. If bed bugs have been identified at home, children can not return to the program until the bed bugs are successfully treated with a medically approved chemical extermination.

If a case of bed bugs is reported in the program, the following steps will occur:

1. All children's belongings will be kept separated, in their designated cubbies until pick up. All items will be sent home for washing.
2. Any washable items that may have come into contact with bed bugs will be removed and placed in a dryer on high heat setting for thirty (30) minutes to sanitize.



Cleaning and Disinfecting

Ridge Kids Playcare will engage in frequent, thorough cleaning and disinfecting practices each day which will meet or exceed the Alberta Health Services Health & Safety Guide for Operators of Child Care Facilities guidelines. Cleaning and disinfecting will take place, as much as possible, when children are not present. With the exception for tables and diaper change tables, which will be cleaned after each use.

Approved Cleaners and Disinfectants

Ridge kids Playcare uses general household cleaning products for general cleaning (dish liquid, bathroom cleaners, general purpose cleaners, Mr Clean, etc.) for wiping and mopping. A bleach solution (per AHS guidelines), with a concentration of 1 part bleach and 9 part water is used as disinfectant for all surfaces. Lysol wipes are also available for quick clean up when needed. Disinfectant is not sprayed within reach or around children, and is left to air dry for minimally one (1) minutes before contact is made.

Cleaning Cloths

Ridge Kids Playcare uses disposable cloths for cleaning, which are disposed of as used. Washable cloths for wiping surfaces after messy activities are available for use. Separate cleaning cloths will be used for food surfaces and messy activities. Cleaning clothes will be washed after one use, the same cloth will not be used multiple times or on multiple surfaces.

Toys

All toys and play areas will be cleaned and disinfected daily. Mouthed toys will be immediately removed and placed into a designated containment for cleaning and disinfection before returning to the play area. Books, puzzles, etc. requiring disinfection will be removed and stored in an airtight container for forty-eight (48) hours before returning to the play area.

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Washrooms

Ridge Kids Playcare Copy Educators will ensure washrooms are disinfected every four (4) hours, if visibly dirty, or after contact with bodily fluids.

Diapering Areas

Cleaning and disinfection of these diapering areas will follow Alberta Health Services Guidelines. These surfaces are disinfected after each use. The containers used for soiled diapers are cleaned & disinfected daily.

Tables and Chairs

Tables will be cleaned and disinfected before and after use at the table for snacks, lunch, play experiences and the end of the day. Chairs are cleaned and disinfected weekly, or when visibly dirty.

Shelves and Counters

Shelves and counters will be cleaned and disinfected as needed and daily.

Lockers/ Cubbies

Lockers/ cubbies are cleaned and sanitize weekly, when visibly dirty or when the child is ill.

Bedding

Bed linens (sheets, blankets, personal comforts toy) will be laundered weekly and whenever wet or soiled. Each Child's linens will be stored separately for each child. Sleep mats will be cleaned and disinfected after the rest period each day and/or stored separately.

Soft Items and Materials

Any soft items required for your child, will be sent home to be laundered weekly. Soft toys, including puppets, play clothes, pillows and cushions, will be laundered weekly or when wet or soiled.

Carpets and rugs are vacuumed daily. Carpets will be cleaned quarterly, when illness spreads, or when visibly dirty.