

NOTICE

To: Licensed Child Care Centre Operators in Leeds, Grenville and Lanark
From: Infectious Diseases Program, Population Health Department
Date: Thursday, September 21, 2023
Subject: **Reporting High Absenteeism Rates at your Licensed Child Care Centre to the Public Health Unit**

In a continuing effort to provide childcare centres in our region with helpful and timely advice on the management of illness in your facilities, The Leeds, Grenville and Lanark District Health Unit is requesting that childcare centres report to the health unit if the absenteeism rate at your centre is 30% or higher, and where absenteeism is known or suspected to be primarily due to illness, or where the cause is unknown. Absenteeism due to non-illness related reasons, such as holidays, appointments or inclement weather, should not be considered in the 30 %.

The health unit can be notified using our [on-line absence rate calculator and reporting tool](#). Alternatively, you can report via phone to 1-800-660-5853 (extension 2222) or by e-mail to: schoolsurveillance@healthunit.org.

Upon receipt of a report from a childcare centre, you will be contacted by a Public Health Inspector from the Health Unit's Infectious Diseases Program team. Follow-up may include:

- Discussion and consideration of factors contributing to the increased absenteeism.
- A review of infection control practices in your centre. This may be by phone, video call or site visit.
- If deemed helpful and/or necessary, you may be provided with a letter which can be provided to parents/guardians notifying them of the increased absenteeism and requesting their assistance in implementing infection control measures.

Note regarding gastrointestinal illness: Absenteeism due to gastrointestinal illness (i.e. vomiting and/or diarrhea) must be reported to the health unit when there are two (2) or more cases (children or staff) in a classroom or 10% across the entire centre in 48 hours. Please refer to the Health Unit's [Preventing and Managing Illness in Childcare Centres Manual](#) for more information.

For more information or if you have questions, call the LGLDHU at 1-800-660-5853, ext. 2222.