

Contact:

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Important Information Regarding E. Coli Outbreak at Other Daycares

Dear Parents and Guardians,

We understand the growing concern regarding the increasing cases of E. Coli outbreak. We want to reassure you that, at Columbia Childcare Centre, your child's health and safety remain our top priorities.

As of now, we are pleased to report that there have been **no reported cases of E. Coli** at our Columbia Childcare Centre. We take this matter seriously and want to emphasize that maintaining a secure and clean environment has always been our top priority. We have consistently implemented a thorough set of measures to ensure the highest standards of cleanliness and safety for everyone involved.

In Our Kitchen:

- Our chef rigorously follows hygiene protocols, including washing hands before food preparation. She has over a decade of experience working in childcare kitchen settings.
- Access to the kitchen area is restricted solely to the chef and daycare educator.
- We place weekly grocery orders to ensure the utilization of the freshest produce.
- Detailed records of food temperatures, fridge, freezer, and dishwasher temperatures are maintained daily.
- A recent inspection conducted by Alberta Health Services in August 2023 found that Columbia Childcare is in compliance with all standards and is rated as satisfactory.
- Our chef holds a provincial food sanitation and hygiene certificate.

In Our Classrooms:

- Children are required to wash their hands both before and after each meal.
- Proper utensils are provided and strongly encouraged for use.
- Toys undergo disinfection at least once a week, with mouthed toys being washed daily during naptime.
- The disinfecting chemicals we use, Diversity Final Step and Oxivir, are approved by Alberta Health Services:
 - ✓ [Final Step™/MC / J-512™/MC Disinfectant Sanitizer | Diversey Global](#)
 - ✓ [Oxivir® Plus Disinfectant Cleaner Concentrate | Diversey Global](#)
- Our cleaning team conducts nightly maintenance, which includes cleaning carpets, floors, washrooms, garbage disposal, and general cleaning throughout the daycare.
- In cases where a child is unwell, they are sent home and must remain symptom-free for 24 hours before returning to daycare.
- We maintain records of illnesses for health and safety purposes.

Diapering:

- Each diaper change involves a minimum of two pairs of gloves, ensuring proper hygiene.
- Diaper changing mats are cleaned and disinfected after each use.
- Educators and children wash their hands following diaper changes.
- Potty training is closely monitored to maintain health and safety.
- Visual reminders for proper handwashing procedures are posted in both children's and adults' washrooms.

For the most recent updates and comprehensive information regarding the E. Coli outbreak, including testing and isolation guidelines, please consult the [E. Coli Outbreak Page](#) on the Alberta Health Services website. You can also access our Alberta Health Service reports by typing "Columbia" in the search bar on their [inspection reports page](#).

Your child's well-being is of the utmost importance to us, and we will continue to exert every effort to uphold a secure and healthy environment at Columbia Childcare Centre. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to us.

Thank you for entrusting us with your child's care.

Sincerely,

Candy Tsoi

Daycare Director, Columbia Childcare Centre
