



#### **Insect Repellent Policy**

This policy aligns with the Canadian Government Health Canada Website

It is the policy of the YMCA of Northern Alberta to protect the well-being of the children in its care. Insect repellents can help reduce mosquito and tick bites, which can cause a range of health problems, from itchiness and irritation to potentially serious diseases. Insect repellent application will commence when the weather is warm enough for children to wear t-shirts and shorts. It will end when the weather is cold enough that children attend in long sleeves and pants.

**In the spring, parents/guardians are asked to provide one, labeled bottle of insect repellent. Insect repellent must be in its original container with manufacture's label with up to 10% DEET and educators must be able to apply it in accordance with this policy. Parents/guardians may also choose not to allow their child to have any insect repellent applied to them. In this case the parent/guardian would have to sign a release of liability form.**

Should parents or guardians providing alternate insect repellent choose a type that cannot be applied through a spray application, the Educator will wash their hands prior to and after each application. If there is any sign of cuts or skin irritation, then educators will use gloves during application.

According to Health Canada the following items will not be suitable replacements for insect repellent: citrus houseplants, odor baited mosquito traps, wrist, neck or ankle bands that contain repellents, skin moisturizer and insect repellent combination products, sunscreen and insect repellent combination products and electronic or ultrasonic devices.

**YMCA Educators will ensure children are using insect repellent with Icaridin or repellent with up to 10% DEET concentration.**

#### **For Icaridin products:**

- One application of 20% Icaridin will allow for 12 hours of protection.
- Icaridin is not to be used on infants under the age of 6 months.

#### **For Deet products:**

- For children aged 6 months-2 years insect repellent with up to 10% DEET can only be used once daily and will allow for three hours of protection.
- For children aged 2-12 years insect repellent with up to 10% DEET can be applied up to three times daily. One application of 10% DEET will allow for three hours of protection
- Deet is not to be used on infants under the age of 6 months.

#### **Insect Repellent Application Instructions**

- When Educators are applying a child's own insect repellent, the Educator will confirm the label with the child's name prior to application.
- If applying sunscreen and insect repellent the sunscreen must be applied first in accordance with the Sun Safety policy.
- Educators must read the label and follow all directions, including restrictions for use on children and the maximum number of applications allowed per day.



## YMCA Child Care Services

### Policies & Procedures

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- Educators will be aware of potential skin sensitivities to insect repellent or chemical sensitivities, and prevent exposing the child to particular products that irritate them.
- If an Educator suspects the child is having a reaction to the repellent, immediately wash the treated area and contact the parents/guardians so they can seek medical attention.
- Insect Repellent is only to be applied outside and never near food. Children are to be made aware that they are not to breath in the repellent.
- Apply on exposed skin and on top of clothing.
- During application, where possible, children will turn their face away from staff.
- Do not spray a child's face. Educators will apply insect repellent to the child's hats and collars.
- Do not spray in children's eyes, if repellent goes in eyes immediately flush with water.
- Avoid applying repellent to children's hands to reduce the chance of getting the repellent in their eyes and mouths
- Do not use repellent on open wounds.
- Educators will document application of insect repellent (Daily Sign Off Sheet)
- Insect repellent is to be kept out of reach of children.
- The insect repellent that the center uses will have to have an MSDS sheet on site.

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