

COVID-19 Pandemic Policy and Centre Response

Health and Safety Requirements

Every individual that enters or resides at the child care premises must do a daily Health and Wellness check *prior* to entering the child care setting. This includes any individual who is listed as an alternate pick up and may be picking up your child.

The childcare provider, children, parents or alternate pick-up must not enter the childcare setting if:

- they have symptoms of common cold, influenza, or other respiratory disease.
- they have [symptoms of COVID-19](#) *see below
- have been identified by Public Health as a close contact of a confirmed case of COVID-19.
- are confirmed to have COVID-19, or resides with a close contact of a COVID 19 positive case.
- **are awaiting results from a COVID-19 test**
- **are required to self-isolate.**
- have travelled outside of Canada, via land or air, in the last 14 days.
- received negative COVID-19 test results but still have symptoms – they must remain out of the childcare setting until symptoms have resolved.

**Symptoms of COVID-19

The symptoms of COVID-19 are similar to other respiratory illnesses including the flu and common cold. The most common symptoms of COVID-19 include:

- [Fever](#) or chills
- Cough
- Loss of sense of smell or taste
- Difficulty breathing

While less common, symptoms can also include:

- Sore throat
- Loss of appetite
- Extreme fatigue or tiredness
- Headache
- Body aches
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

Symptoms That Would Exclude a Child From Care

Symptom	May return when
Temperature of 100 F / 37.8 C or higher (orally) or 99 F / 37.2 C or higher (under the arm)	May return to child care after being free from symptoms for a full 24 hrs.
Runny nose, persistent, clear or discolored, requiring frequent wiping.	May return to child care after their nose has stopped running for a full 24 hrs.
Cough	May return to child care after their cough has stopped for a full 24 hrs.

Sore throat	May return to child care after their throat is no longer sore for 24 hrs.
Difficulty breathing or wheezing	May return to child care after being free from symptoms for a full 24 hrs.
Unexplained fatigue, aches or cold/flu-like symptoms	May return to child care after being free from symptoms for a full 24 hrs.
Sinus congestion	May return to child care after being free from symptoms for a full 24 hrs.
Children who have, or children with others living in the same home who have just returned from international travel	May return after self-isolating for 14 days and being symptom free for the 14 days
Children who have, or children with others living in the same home who have been identified as at-risk of potential Covid19 exposure	May return after self-isolating for 14 days and being symptom free for the 14 days

If Symptoms Present While in the Child Care Premises

If the caregiver or a child

- presents symptoms while in the program, they should be isolated and a family member contacted for pick-up.
- If a 2-metre distance cannot be maintained from the symptomatic individual:
 - Masks should be worn by the adult attending the child or the adult if they are symptomatic (if tolerated and/or available).
 - Hygiene and respiratory etiquette should be practiced while awaiting pick up.
 - Proper respiratory etiquette, with proper disposal of the tissues and proper hand hygiene will be practiced
 - The trash bag will be tied up and thrown into the outdoor garbage can and the trash container will be disinfected.
- All items used by the symptomatic individual will be cleaned and disinfected. All items that cannot be cleaned (paper, books, cardboard puzzles) should be removed for 10 days.
- The [self-assessment tool](#) should be completed for the symptomatic individual and/or guidance obtained from 8-1-1 or a Health Care Practitioner.

If a child has new onset allergy symptoms, they will need to see a physician to rule out any other respiratory illness and provide "The Wonder Path" with a Doctors note.

COVID Testing

If it is recommended to have COVID test, sharing results with The Wonder Path is voluntary and confidential.

It is also recognized that obtaining a COVID test is voluntary. If an individual chooses not to obtain a COVID test they will not be allowed to attend child care for 10 days after symptoms have stopped.

If an Individual Who Has Attended the Child Care Premises Tests Positive for COVID-19

- Fraser Health Licensing Authority will contact those deemed as a close contact and advise on next steps should be followed.

Situations for Child Care to be Closed

- Care Provider
 - experiencing symptoms of common cold, influenza, or other respiratory disease.
 - is required to self-isolate while awaiting COVID 19 test results or still symptomatic after receiving results.
 - is a determined close contact of a COVID 19 confirmed case.
- High transmission rate or an outbreak has been declared at Little caterpillars

Fraser Health Licensing Authority will be contacted as this is a "Disruption of Service" which is a Reportable Incident.

Licensing Required Inspections

- Ministry staff conduct in-person monitoring and licensing inspections of childcare premises.
- Prior to attending a childcare facility Ministry staff contact the childcare provider and confirm if there is anyone in attendance who is exhibiting symptoms.
- The Licensing Officer, who has to complete a daily health assessment prior to attending their workplace, must confirm their own health and wellness. They also outline safety protocols they will be following while on premises (physical distancing, handwashing, personal protective equipment) plus follow any other protocols requested by the home child care provider.

Other Visitors*

- There will be no non-essential visitors during daycare hours.
 - If a visitor must enter the premise they are to provide active confirmation that they have no symptoms of illness and do not require to self-isolate before entering.
 - A list including, date, name and contact info for all visitors who enter the child care setting will be kept.
 - All visitors must wear a mask when in the setting, unless a medical, mental or developmental factor prevents this.
- Ministry staff and other public officials are permitted to enter and inspect a home child care.
- Parents are encouraged to not enter past the entrance door.

*Visitors are defined as parents, caregivers, health-care providers, volunteers and other non-staff adults (BCCDC PH Guidance for Child Care Setting, Feb 12, 2021)

Routines and Sanitary Policies

Pick Up and Drop Off

- Daily health and wellness check done prior to and signed upon arrival (March 2020)
- Drop off and pick up should occur outside of the childcare setting.

- Sanitizer are accessible, to both parents and children outside (season permitting) upon arrival.
- If a parent *must* enter the childcare setting:
 - Only 1 parent is permitted inside at one time, with the caregiver.
 - Please remain near the cubby spaces.
 - Sanitize hands with hand sanitizer
 - If it is a necessity to enter the child care setting, please limit touching of materials or surfaces in the childcare setting.
 - Please maintain physical distancing from others
 - **Must wear a mask.**
- If a child needs to be handed off between adults, this should be done quickly, after which physical distance should be re-established.

Hand Hygiene and Respiratory Etiquette

- All individuals who enter the childcare setting must
 - either use hand sanitizer or wash their hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- Children will be encouraged to, and adults should:
 - Cough or sneeze into their elbow sleeve or a tissue.
 - Throw away used tissues and immediately perform hand hygiene.
 - Not touch their eyes, nose or mouth with unwashed hands.
- Caregivers must wash their hands regularly throughout the day, including:
 - When they enter the childcare setting.
 - Before and after assisting with children's lunch/ drink containers
 - Before and after giving or applying medication, ointment or sunscreen to a child or self
 - After changing diapers
 - After assisting a child to use the toilet
 - After using the toilet
 - After contact with body fluids (e.g., runny noses, spit, vomit, blood)
 - After removing personal protective equipment (rubber gloves)
 - After cleaning
 - After handling garbage
 - Whenever hands are visibly dirty
- Children will be supported to wash their hands regularly throughout the day, including:

- When they arrive and before they go home
- Before and after eating and drinking
- After a diaper change
- After using the toilet
- After playing outside
- After sneezing or coughing
- Anytime a child puts their hands in their mouth, eyes, nose, pants or touches their friends face they will be required to wash their hands.
- Whenever hands are visibly dirty

Physical Distancing

- Adults should remain at least 2 meters apart from each other.
- Children will be encouraged to limit touching of each others e.g. hugs, high fives
- Caregiver will adhere to the principle of physical distancing where possible, by:
 - Minimizing the frequency of direct physical contact with children.
 - Snack/meal areas to space children apart.
 - Children will be staggered in the nap room.

Meal Time

- Children's lunch bags and drink containers will be stored in their cubby spaces until snack/ mealtime.
- The caregiver will sanitize hands before and after helping each child open containers, only one child will be helped at time.
- Children should be seated in such a way that no child can touch another child's body, food, utensils or cup.
- There will be no sharing of food.
- Any food that falls on the tabletop or floor will be discarded.
- Proper hand hygiene is required for all children before and after eating.

Classroom Hygiene

- Nap time items:
 - Nap mats and playpens are label for individual use, cleaned and disinfected after every nap.
 - Linens are individual child use only and washed weekly or when soiled.
- Diapering & Toileting
 - Diaper mat disinfected after each use
 - Removable potty seat disinfected after each use

- Diaper bin will always have new bag each day, and disinfectant sprayed on top and around the bin including the lid.
- Cleaning:
 - Cleaning, sanitizing and disinfecting in accordance with the BC CDC's Cleaning and Disinfectants for Public Settings document.
 - Check expiry dates of products used and always follow manufacturer's instructions.

Once per day*	Twice per day*	Weekly*
Cubbies/ coat rack	Door, cupboard, closet and diaper closet handles	Garbage cans
All indoor manipulatives/ toys	Light switches	
Shelves, light table, tables	Tables & Chairs (between each child)	Bedding, all given at the end of the day to wash to parents
	Indoor toys/ manipulatives	
Nap mats	Bathroom	Cabinet fronts
	Floor (vacuum & mopped)	
	Door and gate handles	

*unless sneezed on, coughed on or visibly soiled

- Toys and objects that children have placed in their mouths will be removed from the classroom, cleaned and disinfected.
- Surfaces that have been in contact with bodily fluids will be cleaned/ disinfected as soon as possible and between uses by different children.
- After each use: diaper mat and portable toilet seat.
- An adequate supply of cleaning and disinfection products and materials will be maintained.
- Empty garbage containers daily at a minimum.

Toys and Resources

- Removal of plush items that are not easily cleaned.
- Please only bring personal comfort items (e.g., stuffed animals) if they are clean and given back to laundered at the end of each day to parents.
- Reduction of classroom materials
- Mouthed toys will be cleaned and disinfected immediately after the child is finished.

- If not possible to sanitize toys immediately, a designated bin/vessel must be available to store mouthed/dirty toys until the child care provider is able to properly sanitize them.

Arts and Crafts

- Individual arts and crafts bins for each child of frequently used items that are difficult to clean between rapid use.
 - Example: pencils, markers, glue sticks, scissors, etc.

Sensory Play

- Sensory play items can not be easily cleaned or sanitized between use. Eg. slime, goop.
- Handwashing before and after using materials will be supported.
- All surfaces and tools used during sensory play need to be cleaned between use or as needed.

Sand table

- The sandbox is available for two children at this time until further notices.
- Spilled sand will not be placed back into the sand box.
- Toys will be sanitized once daily or as needed
- Providers and children are required to wash their hands before and after sand play.

Water table

- Handwashing before and after use will be encouraged.
- A small amount of soap will be placed in the water.
- Toys are to be sanitized between use/once daily or as needed.

Outdoor Items

- Handwashing before and after using materials will be supported.

Fees

- Fees if self isolating for 10 days or have gotten Covid-19 regular fee for childcare will still apply, NO refund, or adjustments to next month billing if the child misses 10-14 days regardless of COVID-19 or self isolating.

Updated : February 2021, July 2020