
SSCS Childcare Programs Covid-19 Health and Safety Policy

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Recognizing that child care programs are an essential service, Sea to Sky Community Services (SSCS) has opted to continue to provide childcare services to families at this time. Please remember that the Covid-19 public health emergency is constantly changing, and our ability to remain open may change without notice; or we may be ordered closed at any time by BC's provincial health officer and/or our licensing officer.

The Ministry of Health maintains that child care centres can safely care for children if they are following the prescribed health protocols. *We do not recommend that children with certain underlying health concerns attend child care programs during the Covid19 pandemic.*

Accordingly, please note the following Covid-19 Health and Safety policy, which applies to all staff and children within the SSCS childcare facilities. It is recommended that children have their temperature taken at home before leaving for the childcare program each day **before** entering the facility. If the child has a temperature, they must remain home and be tested for COVID-19, as per the health policy, below. Average normal body temperature taken orally is about 37°C.

***Ear thermometers will not be used*

Parents will be asked to agree to a statement **each morning** confirming that their child is symptom free and that their child has not been given acetaminophen or ibuprofen in the last 12 hours. The SSCS Risk Assessment Screening Questionnaire is attached. Children that are healthy to attend the program upon completion of the assessment will be directed to wash their hands as soon as they enter into the program.

Symptoms of COVID-19:

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

- Fever
- Chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath
- Sore throat and painful swallowing
- Stuffy or runny nose
- Loss of sense of smell
- Headache
- Muscle aches
- Fatigue
- Loss of appetite

Symptoms can range from **mild to severe**. Sometimes people with COVID-19 have mild illness, but their symptoms may suddenly worsen in a few days. People infected with COVID-19 may also experience gastrointestinal symptoms like diarrhea, nausea and vomiting a few days after the onset of the above symptoms. If you only have gastrointestinal symptoms you may not have COVID-19.

COVID-19 Public Health Guidance for Child Care Settings:

Appendix B: Protocol for child or staff with symptoms of COVID-19 in a child care setting

Child with Symptoms of COVID-19:

IF CHILD DEVELOPS SYMPTOMS AT HOME:

Parents or caregivers must keep their child at home until they have been assessed by a health care provider to exclude COVID-19 or other infectious diseases, AND their symptoms have resolved. **refer to note below*

IF CHILD DEVELOPS SYMPTOMS WHILE AT CHILD CARE:

Staff must take the following steps:

1. Identify a staff member to supervise the child.
 2. Identified staff member should immediately separate the symptomatic child from others in a supervised area until they can go home.
 3. Contact the child's parent or caregiver to pick them up right away.
 4. Where possible, maintain a distance of 2 metres from the ill child. If this is not possible, the staff member may use a mask if available and tolerated, or use a tissue to cover their nose and mouth.
 5. Provide the child with tissues, and support as necessary so they can practice respiratory hygiene.
 6. Open outside doors and windows to increase air circulation in the area.
 7. Avoid touching the child's body fluids. If you do, wash your hands.
 8. Once the child is picked up, wash your hands.
 9. Clean and disinfect the space where the child was separated and any areas used by the child (e.g., bathroom, common areas).
 10. If concerned, contact 8-1-1 or the local public health unit to seek further advice.
- Parents or caregivers must pick up their child promptly once notified that their child is ill.

Staff with Symptoms of COVID-19:

IF STAFF DEVELOPS SYMPTOMS AT HOME:

Staff must be excluded from work, stay home and self-isolate until they have been assessed by a health care provider to exclude COVID-19 or other infectious diseases, AND their symptoms have resolved. **refer to note below*

IF STAFF DEVELOPS SYMPTOMS WHILE AT WORK:

Staff should go home right away where possible.

If unable to leave immediately, the symptomatic staff person should:

1. Separate themselves into an area away from others.

2. Maintain a distance of 2 metres from others.
3. Use a tissue or mask to cover their nose and mouth while they wait for a replacement or to be picked up.
4. Remaining staff must clean and disinfect the space where staff was separated and any areas used by them (e.g., office, bathroom, common areas).
5. If concerned, contact 8-1-1 or the local public health unit to seek further advice.

***NOTE:** If testing is refused or not recommended for any of the symptoms above, then the child or staff must remain home for a minimum of 10 days before returning to the childcare program symptom free. **Parents or caregivers MUST pick up their child promptly once notified that their child is ill. When that is not possible then another local contact person must be available.**

Additionally, our regular sick policy stands:

Children may not attend SSCS child care programs while they have any of the following symptoms:

- unusual, unexplained loss of appetite, fatigue, irritability, or headache
- eye infections
- unexplained rashes or any rash that is not confirmed by doctor to be non-contagious
- known or suspected communicable diseases (measles, chicken pox, pink eye, hand foot and mouth, etc)
- ear infection
- nausea, vomiting and/or diarrhea in the last 48 hours

Pick-up and Drop-off:

Pick-up and drop-off of children will be outside the classroom when possible unless there is a need for the parent or caregiver to enter the setting (e.g., very young children). If a parent must enter the setting, they will be asked to maintain physical distance from staff and other children present and be reminded to practice diligent hand hygiene and maintain physical distance when they are in the facility. Parents and caregivers should use their own pen and avoid touching the sign in/out sheet directly. Parents and caregivers should practice hand hygiene before and after touching the sign in/out sheet. It is suggested that only staff handle the sign in/out sheet.

Parents and caregivers that are symptomatic must not enter the child care facility.

Cleaning and Disinfection:

Regular cleaning and disinfection are essential to preventing the transmission of COVID-19 from contaminated objects and surfaces. SSCS childcare facilities will be cleaned and disinfected in accordance with the BCCDC's Cleaning and Disinfectants for Public Settings document which will be kept on location at each site.

- General cleaning and disinfecting of the centre should occur at least once a day.
- Frequently-touched surfaces should be cleaned and disinfected at least twice a day

- These include door knobs, light switches, faucet handles, table counters, chairs, electronic devices, and toys.
- Clean and disinfect any surface that is visibly dirty.
- Use common, commercially-available detergents and disinfectant products. Follow the instructions on the label. See the BCCDC Cleaning and Disinfectants for Public Settings guidance for more information.
- Remove toys and other items that cannot be easily cleaned (e.g., avoid plush/stuffed toys).
- Empty garbage containers daily, at minimum.
- Wear disposable gloves when cleaning blood or body fluids (e.g., runny nose, vomit, stool, urine). Wash hands before wearing and after removing gloves.
- Clean and disinfect cots and cribs after each use, and launder crib linens between children. If parents are providing their own crib linen, the linens should be laundered and placed in a sealed plastic or washable bag before bringing to the centre. Do not shake the linens.
- Clean diapering stations after each use.
- There is no evidence that the COVID-19 virus is transmitted via textbooks, paper or other paper-based products. As such, there is no need to limit the distribution of books or paper based educational resources to children because of COVID-19.

Hand Hygiene:

Rigorous hand washing with plain soap and water is the single most effective way to reduce the spread of illness. Children and staff can pick up germs easily from anything they touch, and can spread those germs to objects, surfaces, food and people. Everyone should practice diligent hand hygiene. Parents and staff can teach and reinforce these practices amongst children.

COVID-19 Public Health Guidance for Child Care Settings:
Appendix C: When to perform hand hygiene

Children should perform hand hygiene:

- When they arrive at the child care centre and before they go home
- Before and after eating and drinking
- After a diaper change
- After using the toilet
- After playing outside
- After handling pets and animals
- After sneezing or coughing
- Whenever hands are visibly dirty

Staff should perform hand hygiene:

- When they arrive at the child care centre and before they go home
- Before and after handling food (raw, cooked or pre-packaged), preparing bottles or feeding children

- Before and after giving or applying medication or ointment 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 cleaning tasks
- After removing gloves
- After handling garbage
- Whenever hands are visibly dirty

Personal Protective Equipment:

Personal protective equipment, such as masks and gloves are not needed in the child care setting, beyond those used by staff as part of regular precautions for the hazards normally encountered in their regular course of work. They should only be used when all other controls have been fully explored.

Wear disposable gloves when cleaning blood or body fluids (e.g., runny nose, vomit, stool, urine) and when diapering. Remember to wash your hands before wearing, and after removing gloves.

Cloth or non-medical homemade masks are not recommended. Wearing one is a personal choice. More information about COVID-related mask use is available:

<http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/prevention-risks/masks>

In young children in particular, masks can be irritating and may lead to increased touching of the face and eyes.

There is no evidence to support the use of medical grade, cloth, or homemade masks in child care setting at this time. Wearing one is a personal choice. It is important to treat people wearing masks with respect.

For further information and guidance, please refer to the COVID-19 Public Health Guidance for Child Care Settings

BC Centre for Disease Control – BC Ministry of Health

Updated: July 8, 2020

SSCS Risk Assessment Screening Questionnaire

Date: _____

Child's name: _____

1. Does the child attending the program, or anyone in the child's household, have any of the following symptoms: <i>Note: If a household member has symptoms and has had a negative COVID test result, the child may attend the program if symptom free.</i>		
Fever	YES	NO
Been given fever reducing medication in the past 12 hours	YES	NO
Cough	YES	NO
Shortness of breath/difficulty breathing	YES	NO
Sore throat	YES	NO
Runny nose/sinus congestion	YES	NO
Feeling unwell/fatigued	YES	NO
Nausea/vomiting/diarrhea	YES	NO
Unexplained cold/flu like symptoms	YES	NO
Muscle aches	YES	NO
Headache	YES	NO
Conjunctivitis (Pink eye)	YES	NO
2. In the past 14 days have you or anyone in your household returned from travel outside of Canada?	YES	NO
3. In the past 14 days have you or anyone in your household been exposed to a confirmed case of COVID-19?	YES	NO

If the answer is YES to any of the above questions, the person must not enter the facility at this time.

If the answer is YES to question 2 or 3, public health has directed them to self-isolate for 14 days.

If the answer is NO to all of the above the child may enter.

Guardian name _____