

# BCCA KIDS CLUB COVID-19 SAFETY PLAN



The Provincial Health Officer requires all Workplaces to have a COVID-19 Safety plan to limit the spread and reduce the impact of COVID-19 and has provided guidelines for us to follow in a Child Care Setting. Please note that the following protocols have been implemented effective immediately *and is subject to change following provincial and federal health and safety requirements*. Kids Club has been and will continue to stay current with all requirements provided by our Provincial Health Offices, Regional Health Authorities and WorkSafeBC.

## Public Health Measures

The Provincial Health Officer's Order for Mass Gatherings continues to prohibit gatherings and events of people in excess of 50 people, however this Order does not apply to child care settings. As such, there can be more than 50 children and staff at any given setting if they are not all in one area and if they are actively engaged in physical distancing to the greatest extent possible.

If a child or a staff is found to be a confirmed case of COVID-19, the group, program or Centre may close down immediately and we will inform the local public health staff, our licensing officer and families as soon as possible. The group, program or Centre will reopen only after the health and licensing authorities deem it safe to do so.

## Environmental Measures

### Outdoor Spaces and Ventilation:

- We will have our children outside often, including for learning activities, snack time and play time.
- Our activities will be organized in a way that takes into consideration personal measures.
- We will reassure our children and parents that playgrounds are a safe environment, and encourage appropriate hand hygiene practices before, during, after outdoor play.
- We will ensure adequate ventilation and open windows as much as possible.

### Cleaning and Disinfection:

- Regular cleaning and disinfection will be done 3 times a day in accordance with the BCCDC's Cleaning and Disinfectants for Public Settings Protocol.
- Frequently-touched surfaces will be cleaned and disinfected at least twice a day during hours of operation. These include door knobs, light switches, faucet handles, table counters, chairs, electronic devices, and toys.
- We will ensure and continue cleaning and disinfecting all surfaces that are visibly dirty and use common, commercially-available detergents and disinfectant products.
- We will remove toys and other items that cannot be easily cleaned (e.g., avoid plush/stuffed toys).
- Our garbage containers will continue to be emptied daily.
- We will continue wearing disposable gloves when cleaning blood or body fluids (e.g., runny nose, vomit, stool, urine) and wash hands before wearing and after removing gloves.
- Our mats, cots and cribs will continue to be cleaned and disinfected after each use. The bedding will be placed in a sealed plastic or washable bag.
- Diapering stations will continue to be cleaned and disinfected 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.

### Physical Distancing and Minimizing Physical Contact

- The physical space requirements for all licensed child care settings set out in the Child Care Licensing Regulation means that we have sufficient space to support physical distancing between staff without reducing the number of children in care at any one time.
- Our staff will minimize the frequency of direct physical contact with children and encourage children to minimize physical contact with each other.
- Our staff will maintain physical distancing from one another.
- We will establish reasonable expectations based on age and/or developmental readiness. For example: Younger children will be supported to have minimized direct contact with one another, while older children will be supported to maintain physical distance whenever possible.
- Children from the same household (e.g., siblings) do not need to maintain physical distance from each other.
- We will implement the following physical distancing strategies where possible i.e. Avoid close greetings (e.g. hugs, handshakes).
- Our children will be reminded regularly to keep “Hands to yourself”.
- We will strive to minimize the number of different staff that interact with the same children throughout the day.
- Our children will be re-grouped into smaller cohorts within the group and/or spread out to minimize direct physical contact.
- We will use different room configurations (e.g., separating tables) and set up small group environments to reduce the number of children in a group, for example, set up 2 or 3 areas for colouring or doing crafts.
- We will incorporate more individual activities or activities that encourage more space between children and staff.
- Toys that encourage group play in close proximity will be removed and will promote toys that encourage individual play. We will not have dress-up clothes or stuffed animals and limit the use of playdough to reduce hand-to-hand-contact and cross contamination
- We will teach our younger children about physical distancing and less physical contact by creating games that include basic principles such as “two arm lengths apart” and will use more books, individual games and online programs as a part of learning so children can sit independently and distanced from each other.
- We will increase the distance between nap mats, if possible and if space is tight, we will place children head-to-toe or toe-to-toe.
- Children who have symptoms of illness will be separated in the administration office and will have a place to rest under supervision, until they are picked up. These areas will be cleaned and disinfected after the child has left.
- Snack and meal times may be staggered to allow spacing between children during meals.
- Families must limit their drop-off and pick-up person to just one person and ensure that you do not enter the Centre, if there is another person dropping or picking their child. Please wait outside until they exit.
- Parent must maintain physical distance from staff and other children present and use the hand sanitizers placed at the entrance of each room as soon as you enter our facility.
- We will facilitate pick-ups from outside the classroom as long as the weather permits.
- Persons providing care and/or supporting inclusion of a child in care (e.g. supportive child care assistants, speech language pathologist, etc.) are permitted to join the groups as needed.

- Buses or vans used for transporting children will be cleaned and disinfected according to the guidance provided in the BCCDC's Cleaning and Disinfectants for Public Settings and will be limited to the transport of children to and from school. Children will be separated by 2 meters where possible except for children from the same household.
- Parents and caregivers that are symptomatic must not enter the child care facility.
- Staff will sign in/out every child to limit handling of the pen and clipboard.

### Administrative Measures

- We have established a policy that all parents and caregivers must assess their children daily for symptoms before sending them for child care.
- Please follow our policy and procedures for children and staff who become sick while at the facility.
- We will ask parents and caregivers about illness at drop-off to confirm that the child does not have symptoms of common cold, influenza, COVID-19, or other respiratory disease.
- There is no role for screening children or staff for specific symptoms, checking temperatures, or COVID-19 testing. Such activities are reserved for health care professionals.
- We have posted signs in all the facility and classroom entrances to remind people not to enter the facility if they are sick.
- All families are required to sign the **COVID-19 Agreement** that they have read, understand and will follow the safety policy and protocols as listed in this Safety Plan, etc.

### Personal Measures

- Children, parents, caregivers and staff must not enter the Centre if they have symptoms of COVID-19 or have travelled outside of Canada in the last 14 days or have been identified by public health as a close contact of a person with a confirmed case of COVID-19.
- Please assess your child/children daily for the presence of symptoms of common cold, influenza, COVID-19, or other infectious respiratory disease prior to drop off. Please keep your child/children 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.
- Children **MUST** stay home if they or any of their family members are ill and show any signs or symptoms of COVID-19 such as fever, chills, cough, shortness of breath, sore throat and painful swallowing, stuffy or runny nose, loss of smell, headache, muscle aches, fatigue and loss of appetite. Please use the self-assessment tool at <https://bc.thrive.health/covid19/activity> if you are unsure and inform our staff immediately.
- Children who are ill, including children of essential service providers, will **not** be permitted to attend child care until they have a clean bill of health from their family physician or medical practitioner.
- Our staff will assess themselves daily for symptoms of common cold, influenza, or COVID-19 prior to coming to work and stay home if they or anyone in their family are ill and inform the supervisor immediately. If they feel sick or show symptoms while at work, they will be sent home right away and will have them contact their doctor, use the self-assessment tool and call 8-1-1 and follow their directive.
- Any staff member(s) who was working with the infected staff and children in that group will also be asked to leave the facility for at least 14 days to ensure that the infection does not spread.
- That room will be closed off, cleaned, and disinfected immediately.
- If a parent, caregiver or staff member is unsure if they or a child should self-isolate, please use the BC COVID-19 Self-Assessment Tool, contact 8-1-1 or the local public health unit. Please consult your family physician or nurse practitioner to be assessed for COVID-19 and other respiratory diseases.

- Our staff will follow hand hygiene rigorously since it is the single most effective way to reduce the spread of illness. Everyone will practice diligent hand hygiene and we will teach and reinforce these practices amongst children.
- How to perform hand hygiene: Wash hands with plain soap and water for at least 20 seconds (sing the “ABC’s” or “Twinkle Twinkle Little Star”). Alcohol-based hand sanitizer containing at least 60% alcohol will be used on those occasions when hand washing is not possible, under staff supervision.
- BCCDC’s Hand Hygiene posters and signage for children are posted next to all our hand washing and sanitizing stations at our entrances.
- Hand hygiene will be incorporated into our daily schedule and will include washing hands when children arrive at the Centre and before they go home, before and after eating and drinking, after a diaper change or using a toilet, after playing outside or handling pets, after sneezing or coughing and whenever hands are visibly dirty.
- Hand hygiene for staff will include washing hands when they arrive at the Centre, before they go home, before and after handling food, preparing bottles or feeding children, after changing diapers after assisting children to use the toilet, after using the toilet, after contact with bodily fluids e.g. runny noses, spit, vomit, blood, etc. Before donning and after doffing personal protective equipment, after cleaning tasks, after handling garbage and whenever hands are visibly dirty.
- We will ensure that our Centre is well-stocked with hand washing supplies at all times including plain soap, clean towels, paper towels, waste bins, and where appropriate, hand sanitizer with a minimum of 60% alcohol.
- Our staff will model and assist young children with hand hygiene as needed.
- Children will be taught and reminded of respiratory etiquette i.e. cough or sneeze into their elbow sleeve or a tissue, throw away used tissues and immediately perform hand hygiene (“Cover your coughs”).
- Children will be taught and reminded not touch their eyes, nose or mouth with unwashed hands (“Hands below your shoulders”).
- It is not recommended that children wear cloth or homemade masks but we will respect anyone who chooses to use it.
- Our staff will teach and reinforce these practices amongst children:
  - ✓ Do not should not share food, drinks, soothers, bottles, sippy cups, toothbrushes, facecloths, and other personal items.
  - ✓ Label personal items with the child’s name to discourage accidental sharing.
  - ✓ Reusable utensils will be cleaned and sanitized after each use.
  - ✓ Children will not be allowed to prepare or serve food.
  - ✓ Parents and caregivers are requested to only bring personal comfort items (e.g. stuffies) if they are clean and can be laundered at the end of each day.

## 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.
- Disposable gloves will be used 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 but wearing one is a personal choice. In young children in particular, masks can be irritating and may lead to increased touching of the face and eyes. Wearing one is a personal choice and we will respect those choices. If you’re ill, stay at home