

FOREST CIRCLE SOCIETY FOR FAMILIES

COVID-19 Health Policy

Revised October 5, 2020

Children and child care providers should stay at home when new symptoms of illness develop. The key symptoms of COVID-19 are fever, chills, cough or worsening of chronic cough, difficulty breathing (in small children, this can look like breathing fast or working hard to breathe), loss of sense of smell or taste, nausea/vomiting and diarrhea.

For more information please see the Sept 25.20 COVID-19 Public Health Guidance for Child Care Settings and links to BC Centre for Disease Control online at http://www.bccdc.ca/Health-Info-Site/Documents/COVID_public_guidance/Guidance_Child_Care.pdf

All parents, caregivers, children and staff who

- *have key symptoms of COVID-19;**
- *are waiting for results of a COVID-19 test;**
- *were confirmed by Public Health as a case of COVID-19;**
- *were confirmed by Public Health as a close contact of a confirmed case or outbreak of COVID-19; or**
- *travelled outside of Canada in the last 14 days**

are not permitted to attend the child care facility

Parents/caregivers must assess their child daily for symptoms of COVID-19, including a temperature check, before accessing child care services.

Staff must assess themselves daily for symptoms of COVID-19 prior to working and stay home if they are ill.

Children and staff with previously diagnosed conditions that may present with COVID-19 like symptoms, such as asthma or allergies, are assessed for worsening symptoms.

Anyone with a fever or difficulty breathing or any two of the other key symptoms of COVID-19 must seek a health assessment by calling 8-1-1 or a primary care provider like a physician or nurse practitioner and cannot return to the child care setting until COVID-19 has been excluded and symptoms have improved. If a COVID-19 test is recommended but not done, the person must remain away for 10 days after the onset of symptoms and then can return to child care if well.

Anyone with only one of the key symptoms of COVID-19, not including fever or difficulty breathing, must stay away from child care for at least 24 hours from when the symptom started. If the symptom improves, the person can return to care when they feel well enough to participate in all areas of the program.

Child drop offs and pick ups occur outside as much as practical, in the playgrounds, until further notice. Staff conduct and document daily checks for illness at drop-off by asking parents/caregivers to confirm that the child does not have symptoms that could be COVID-19 related.

Parents/caregivers must have a plan in place for immediate pickup if their child starts to show signs and symptoms of COVID-19 while at the Centre. If a child has a fever or difficulty breathing, or shows other symptoms of COVID-19, staff contact the family/emergency contact for immediate pickup and isolate the child from the other children as able until picked up by the parent/caregiver.

Entry into the child care facility is limited to children, staff and practicum students at this time unless required by law or arrangements to ensure physical distancing of 2 meters are implemented. In addition to the conversations at drop off and pick up, parents/caregivers are encouraged to communicate via telephone or email.

Our health policies requiring exclusion for skin or eye infections, undiagnosed rash, parasite related conditions, starting antibiotics, etc., are still in place.

Staff continue to observe “Universal Precautions” when dealing with bodily fluids.

Staff perform increased cleaning and sanitizing of toys and equipment, including frequently touched surfaces, as outlined in our posted COVID-19 Safety Plan and in compliance with Work Safe BC and Ministry of Health requirements.

As described in the COVID-19 Safety Plan, frequent and thorough handwashing procedures are in place for both children and staff.

Masks are not recommended for routine use by children or child care providers. We have washable fabric masks available for staff, who may choose to wear them upon occasion, e.g. while supervising ill child awaiting pick up.

Child care areas are well ventilated and children spend lots of time in the outdoor play spaces.

Proper “sneeze etiquette” is required of staff and encouraged for children, including covering sneezes with disposable tissue or their arm, followed immediately by thorough handwashing or hand sanitizing.

Staff and parents/caregivers maintain a “social distance” of at least 2 meters with other adults as able.

Staff arrange furniture and routines to encourage distancing between the children while also providing the warm and nurturing care required.

Compliance with these COVID-19 policies is required for each family, and the contacts they have authorized to pick up their children from the Centre, to ensure their continuing child care service.

The child care centre is an oasis of calm and security for children and no “fear mongering” is tolerated on site. Please call or email the Manager if you have concerns you wish to discuss.