

FOREST CIRCLE SOCIETY FOR FAMILIES

COVID-19 Health Policy

Revised February 26, 2021

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) and loss of sense of smell or taste. Other COVID-19 symptoms include sore throat, loss of appetite, headache, body aches, extreme fatigue or tiredness (in small children, this can look like decreased activity, lack of appetite or changes in behaviour), nausea or vomiting and diarrhea.

For more information please see the Feb 12.21 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 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;**
- *are required to self-isolate as per public health officials' direction; and/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, and stay home if they have symptoms. Staff ask for and record the results of the child's health assessment each day of attendance.

Staff must assess themselves daily for symptoms of COVID-19 prior to working and stay home if they have symptoms. Staff must inform their Manager by email each day, prior to arriving at work, that they have conducted their health assessment.

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 any of the 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 other symptoms of COVID-19 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 are well enough to participate in all areas of the program.

If the person has two or more of the other symptoms, they must stay away from child care for at least 24 hours. If they are then still symptomatic, they must seek a health assessment by calling 8-1-1 or a primary care provider 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.

With regards to COVID-19, notes from health-care providers are not required to confirm the health status of any individual. Our health policies requiring exclusion for skin or eye infections, undiagnosed rash, parasite related conditions, starting antibiotics, etc., are still in place.

Child drop offs and pick ups occur outside as much as practical, in the playgrounds. Entry into the child care facility is limited to children, staff, practicum students and community professionals who are supporting activities that are of benefit to children's learning and wellbeing, unless required by law or for facility maintenance, and 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.

All adults are required to wear a mask during drop off and pickup, and whenever physical distancing cannot be maintained. Older children may wear a mask based on personal or family choice; however, infants under two years should not wear masks as it may make it difficult for them to breathe. Child care staff must wear masks in common areas where physical distance cannot be maintained, such as the hallways, and may choose to wear a mask at other times.

Parents/caregivers must have a plan in place for immediate pickup if their child starts to display 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. The area is then cleaned and sanitized.

As described in the COVID-19 Safety Plan, frequent and thorough hand washing/sanitizing procedures are in place for both children and staff. Staff continue to observe "Universal Precautions" when dealing with bodily fluids, including wearing disposable gloves. Proper "sneeze etiquette" is required of staff and encouraged for children, including covering sneezes with disposable tissue or their arm, followed immediately by thorough hand washing or hand sanitizing.

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

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

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.