

FOREST CIRCLE SOCIETY FOR FAMILIES

COVID-19 Health Policy

Symptoms of COVID-19 can be similar to the common cold or influenza and may include fever, chills, cough, shortness of breath, sore throat, painful swallowing, stuffy or runny nose, loss of sense of smell, headache, muscle aches, fatigue and lethargy, reduced appetite, skin changes and lesions, stomachache, nausea, vomiting or diarrhea. For more information please see the May 19.20 COVID-19 Public Health Guidance for Child Care Settings and links to BC Centre for Disease Control.

All parents, caregivers, children and staff who

- *have symptoms of COVID-19 or**
- *travelled outside of Canada in the last 14 days or**
- *were identified by Public Health as a close contact of a confirmed case or**
- *have a household member with symptoms of COVID-19**

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 not attend if the child is not well.

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

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

Child drop offs and pick ups occur outside, in the playgrounds, until further notice. Staff will conduct and document daily checks for illness at drop-off by asking parents/caregivers to confirm that the child does not have symptoms of common cold, influenza, COVID-19 or other respiratory disease or gastrointestinal illness.

If a parent, caregiver or staff member is unsure if they or a child should self-isolate, they are directed to use the BC COVID-19 Self-Assessment Tool, contact 8-1-1 or the local public health unit.

Parents/caregivers/staff can also contact a family physician/nurse practitioner for assessment and/or testing.

Children and staff excluded from the Centre due to COVID-19 symptoms must remain away for at least 10 days or until they have been assessed by their family physician/nurse practitioner, (which may include a COVID-19 test), and it is documented that they do NOT have COVID-19, and their symptoms have resolved.

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 shows signs and 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 and necessary staff 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.

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.

Thank you for your compliance with these COVID-19 policies as we strive to maintain the health and well-being of our Forest Circle Society for Families circle while providing essential child care services.

I have read and understand the expectations outlined in the Forest Circle Society for Families COVID-19 Health Policy and understand that if I or any my authorized contacts do not comply with the policies I may be required to withdraw my child from the Centre.

Parent/Caregiver Signature

Date

Staff Signature (witness)

Date
