



## COVID-19 Health and Wellness Policy

Updated: September 24, 2020

In light of the COVID-19 health emergency, we feel it is important to clarify that Dr. Bonnie Henry has confirmed and encouraged childcares to remain open, where possible, to serve families that are in need of childcare. However, the Covid-19 health emergency is ever changing, and our ability to remain open may change without notice; or we may be ordered to close by BC's provincial health officer, Dr. Bonnie Henry, and/or our licensing officer.

Given the important requirements, it is imperative that we are firm in our health policy, and that all parents understand and agree to the following additional requirements. If you feel you are unable to comply with these requirements, we are happy to provide you with recommendations of other programs that may better suit your child care needs. If you choose to find other care, all fees and deposits are non-refundable.

Before arrival, parents will be asked to self-assess child's health each morning at home. If the child has a temperature, they must remain at home, in accordance with our health policy below:

Symptom	May return when
Temperature of 100 F / 37.8 C or higher (orally) or 99 F / 37.2 C or higher (under the arm)	May return to child care after being symptom free.
Runny nose, Sinus Congestion	May return to child care after being symptom free.
Cough	May return to child care after being symptom free.
Sore throat	May return to child care after being symptom free.
Difficulty breathing or wheezing	May return to child care after being symptom free.
Unexplained fatigue, aches or cold/flu-like symptoms	May return to child care after being symptom free.
Eye infections, discharge, red/pink eyes	May return to child care after symptom free.
Children who have, or children with others living in the same home who have just returned from international travel	Please self-isolate, and monitor for symptoms but children are free to come to Day Care if symptom free.
Children who have, or children with others living in the same home who have been identified as at-risk of potential Covid19 exposure	Please monitor and get assessed for COVID-19 by using the self-assessment tool at <a href="http://bc.thrive.health/">http://bc.thrive.health/</a> and/or have a health assessment by child's health practitioner.

**Children and staff may NOT attend childcare program 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.)
- Nausea, vomiting and/or diarrhea in the last 24 hours and must stay home for 10 days to evaluate their symptoms.

If symptoms arise while at daycare the child will be isolated from other children, and you will be required to pick up immediately.

We do not recommend that children with any underlying health concerns attend childcare programs during the Covid-19 pandemic.

**Health, Safety and Cleaning Procedures:**

**Drop-off/ Pick up:**

Parents are not currently allowed to access our facility, drop off will occur at the front door.

- Parents will knock on the door and wait for an Educator to answer, the educator will sign you in.
- Children will come in and hang up their belongings
- Children will immediately go to the washroom to wash their hands with soap and water for 20+ seconds, with supervision of an educator.
- At the end of the day, the parent will knock on the door and staff will gather your child's things and bring them outside the door for pick up.

Please continue to observe social distancing expectations as you wait for an educator to bring your child and their belongings to you.

**Provision of Care:**

We are currently providing child care at a reduced capacity, and gradually inviting families back, based on need of care. Hours and days of operation may be adjusted to ensure that the programs are able to meet all licensing expectations regarding ratios. In the event that some employees are unable to come in to work or are in quarantine, ratios may be lowered to meet expectations from the health authority, or because there is not enough staff available to maintain regular ratios.

All soft items have been removed from the room – no dress up, stuffies etc. Easily cleaned toys will be provided - no toys from home.

**Please find a list below of the things to bring with you to daycare:**

- We will not be providing snacks at this time. Please come with snacks and lunch, pack accordingly as there will be no heat ups of foods.
- Each child must bring their own water bottle
- Please bring a change of clothing and appropriate gear for outside – Ex. sunhats, appropriate foot wear, appropriate gear for the weather etc.(we will be spending a lot of time outdoors)

### **Cleaning Procedures:**

- License approved disinfectant and cleaner products will be used to clean the room.
- Toys will be cleaned throughout the day. Limiting what is available will reduce what needs to be cleaned.
- All high touch surfaces (door handles, light switches, washrooms, sinks etc.) will be cleaned 3-4 times per day
- The washroom is disinfected after every child use.

### **Health Procedures:**

Children and staff may not attend Centennial Day Care if they exhibit any symptoms sickness. There are no exceptions to this illness policy.

- Staff and children will follow strict health protocols
- If a staff member is unwell with any of the above symptoms, they will be required to stay home and self-isolate for the next 10 days, or until symptoms reside.
- We will ensure and supervise that hand washing is being done when; entering the building, before and after eating times, washroom use, after coughing or sneezing etc.

*Children are NOT required to social distance from each other. We will encourage them to not congregate in a big group; however children are naturally social and will allow them to be social with each other. We are working hard to ensure this is a safe, calm and caring place for the children*

## **Fees during a Pandemic/Communicable Disease Outbreak**

In the event of a short-term closure due to a pandemic or communicable disease outbreak (less than 30 days), fees are due and payable as per usual operations. Fees payable during closures exceeding 30 days will be based on information received from the Ministry of Children and Family Development. Any closure of 30 days or more would also have an impact on whether spaces are held at no charge while a family is isolating for the term of the pandemic, or whether a nominal fee would be implemented. As each outbreak or pandemic is different, the guidelines around these situations would be different as well. Each situation will be decided based on information provided to the Board of Directors from all the Ministries involved.

The ACCB, (Affordable Child Care Benefit), formerly known as subsidy, is provided through MCFD and may or may not be provided during a pandemic or communicable disease outbreak closure. Parents/Guardians may directly contact the MCFD office at 1-888-338-6622 to discuss MCFD's policy regarding the ACCB payments. This decision is outside of Centennial Childcare Centre's authority. If MCFD will not cover the fees, then parents will be responsible for the full monthly fee for their childcare if a closure under 30 days occurs.