



## COVID-19 Health and Wellness Policy

Updated: April 26, 2021

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; 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 their child's health each morning at home. If the child has a temperature, they must remain at home, in accordance with the Vancouver Island Health Authority (VIHA) Department of Public Health and our health policy below.

Symptom(s):	May return when:
Temperature greater than or equal to 100°F (37.8°C) orally or 99°F (37.2°C) under the arm.	May return to childcare when he/she is left 24 hours at normal temperature without the help of medication and is symptom free.
Runny nose, sinus congestion	May return to childcare after being symptom free for a <u>minimum</u> of 24 hours.
Cough	May return to childcare after being assessed, deemed not contagious, and after being symptom free for a <u>minimum</u> of 24 hours.
Sore throat	May return to childcare after being assessed, deemed not contagious, and after being symptom free for a <u>minimum</u> of 24 hours.
Difficulty breathing or wheezing	May return to childcare after being assessed, deemed not contagious, and after being symptom free for a <u>minimum</u> of 24 hours.

Unexplained fatigue, aches or cold/flu-like symptoms	If these symptoms are accompanied by a cough, sore throat, difficulty breathing; you must be assessed, deemed not contagious, and symptom free for a <u>minimum</u> of 24 hours before returning to childcare.
Eye infection, discharge, red/pink eyes	May return to childcare after being treated or examined and is deemed not contagious.
Children who have, or children with others living in the same home who have just returned from international travel	May return to childcare after self-isolating for a <u>minimum of 14 days</u> in accordance with provincial and public health guidelines and are symptom free.
Children who have, or children with others living in the same home who have tested positive and/or have been identified as at-risk of potential COVID-19 exposure	May return to childcare after self-isolating for a <u>minimum of 14 days</u> in accordance with provincial and public health guidelines and are symptom free.

**The COVID-19 test is now available to almost anyone who has symptoms. Please call 8-1-1 for further information and advice.**

As soon as there is any doubt, isolation is put in place for the child or employee with symptoms of COVID-19 (persistent cough, persistent sneezing, fever, runny nose, sore throat and/or shortness of breath) The child will have adequate supervision until he/she can return home.

The parent/guardian is informed immediately that their child begins to exhibit symptoms of COVID-19. The parent/guardian will also be informed that he/she has 30 minutes to pick-up his/her child and that he/she should follow the advice given by public health officials by calling 8-1-1.

Children with any symptoms related to an infectious disease will be presumed as being cases of COVID-19; any potentially related symptoms (vomiting, diarrhea) will be treated in the same way and will force the child and/or affected staff member to leave immediately and only to return in accordance with current public health guidelines (811 or other health professional), as well as existing policies on diseases already in place in the parent's manual. The same goes for any disease unrelated to COVID-19. There will be zero tolerance for any sign of immune weakness.

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

## **Health procedure:**

**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 infection.
- 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 must stay home for at least 24 hours and until symptom free.

**There is no exemption to this 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 resolve.
- 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.*

## **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:**

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.

### **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 uses it.

### **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.

Thank you kindly,  
The Staff at Centennial Day Care Society