



## *The School House ECLC*

### **Required Public Health Measures During Pandemic**

*\*This is a living document and is subject to change as more information is released by the government of Canada and has been created in partnership with Childcare Licensing\**

### **Frequently Asked Questions pertaining to the Covid-19 Pandemic:**

**Q: My child in the Bobcats is sick (fever, difficulty breathing/shortness of breath, vomiting, diarrhea). Can my child in Lynx still attend?**

A: No.

**Q: My child in the Bobcats is sick (runny nose, sore throat). Can my child in the Lynx still attend?**

A: Yes. Both children may attend as long as they are not exhibiting *any other symptoms from the key symptoms list* and they are well enough to *actively participate* in daily routines and are medication free.

**Q: Will I be reimbursed for any days missed because of lack of staff?**

A: Yes. At this time as per our prototype agreements, any closures that happen due to sick staff/lack of staff will be credited.

**Q: Who is required to wear masks and when?**

A: All visitors (ie: parents, practicum students, SCD staff, custodians) are required to wear masks whenever in the building. Masks should be worn outside whenever social distancing is not possible. Staff are required to wear masks at pick up/drop off times, whenever in a program other than their designated program, in common areas (ie: kitchen, ped room, staff room, laundry area, office) *\*While supplies last- Disposable masks available to those who forget!\** Masks are NOT required for children.

**Q: My child has a mild runny nose. Can they still attend?**

A: Yes. As long as they are not exhibiting *any other symptoms from the key symptoms list* and they are well enough to *actively participate* in daily routines.

**Q: My child is teething so I gave them some tylenol. Can they still attend while on tylenol etc?**

A: No. Unfortunately while we understand you want to soothe your child's teething symptoms, medication may mask key symptoms of covid-19. If your child has been administered any medication they are not eligible for care that day.

**Q: How does the School House decide who to call and deny care to in the event that they are short staffed due to sickness? How will I be notified?**

A: Program Leaders have a spreadsheet where they keep track of who has been called in the last month to make sure it is shared as evenly as possible among families. We also consider whose Primary educator is out sick and who we know have other supports at home for in the

event they cannot receive care. During the pandemic it is recommended that families check their emails every morning in the event we have full closures of programs/classrooms. Team Leaders will also do their best to notify individual families via text or phone for partial closures of classrooms.

## **SECTION I:**

**1)** The licensing requirements for child/staff ratios must be maintained at all times and The School House ECLC will be over staffing to allow for cleaning protocols and social distancing measures.

**2)** Any child, staff or parent must not enter the child care space if they are sick. Review the Wellness Questionnaire daily to ascertain if you are well enough to attend.

- If a person develops symptoms while at the facility, the affected person needs to be isolated in a separate area and the parent should be notified to come and pick up the child immediately. Staff will be required to go home immediately too. If a separate room is not available, the affected person needs to be kept at least 2 meters away from other people.

- If a child exhibiting symptoms is young and requires close contact and care, caregivers can continue to care for the child until the parent is able to pick the child up. Caregivers should be mindful of handwashing and avoid contact with the respiratory secretions of the child.

-All items, bedding, toys etc. used by the child while isolated should be sanitized as soon as the child has been picked up.

- If a staff shows symptoms of Covid-19 they will be asked to leave/stay home and get tested for Covid-19 as soon as possible. The remaining staff at the center will be asked to self monitor their health until the test results for the sick staff come back negative. If and when it comes back negative and their symptoms have improved, they can return to work. The staff will be paid from the day of the covid test and while waiting for their test results. If their test comes back positive for covid-19 they will be required to apply for employment benefits, to be paid for their 2 week quarantine period. If a staff chooses not to get tested, they can self isolate for 2 weeks and then return to work; they too will be required to apply for employment benefits- they will NOT be paid by The School House. \*\*Regular paid sick days (\*1/month) remain in effect to be used for non-covid-19 sicknesses.( \*this is currently being reviewed to allow 12 sick days per year when needed).

**-In the event any staff or children that have been in attendance of The School House ECLC receive a positive diagnosis of Covid-19, the entire center will need to close and parties involved will need to self isolate for 2 weeks and the center will need to have top to bottom sanitation.**

BC Wage Enhancement for ECE's during a Positive Case Closure is revoked, this applies to all sick days/time.

**3)** It is recommended and encouraged that every day children change out of their daycare clothes immediately upon returning home and their clothing be laundered. In addition, we are asking families to not recycle clothing from one day to the next.

**Reminder to all families, to check emails regularly for up to date and last minute notifications/changes.**

**Parents must review the Active Symptoms Screening Questionnaire** every morning when they drop off their child(ren).

**5)** Child care programs must adhere to the following handwashing guidelines. Specifically, programs must engage in frequent handwashing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds at the following times:

- At the start of the day and before going home.
- After going to the washroom.
- After a diaper change or toileting a child (both children and staff).
- Before and after preparing food.
- Before and after eating.
- After getting hands dirty.
- After cleaning tasks (staff).

Child care staff should help young children to ensure handwashing is done correctly.

Alcohol-based hand rub (ABHR) is not recommended for routine use in child care.

**6)** Parents should provide all meals and snacks (School House Kitchen is closed). If a child does not show up with food for the day, the program may provide the child food. There should be no common food items (e.g. shared snack bowl). Utensils should be used to serve food items (not fingers). Food should be served on a plate/bowl, not on the table itself. For birthday celebrations families or staff may bring/provide healthy, store-bought food items to share. No home made items at this time.

**7)** Programs should engage in frequent, thorough cleaning each day. Child care programs shall follow Licensing regulations regarding cleaning, sanitizing and disinfecting. Follow the program's regular routine cleaning and disinfecting practices. In addition, clean and disinfect frequently touched objects/toys and surfaces multiple times throughout the day. Staff, to the best of their abilities, will disinfect play areas and materials as the day goes on.

**8)** Any sensory play tables will be used only per classroom and not mixed between rooms. Before and after hands should be washed and the basin washed, rinsed, and sanitized and the water table emptied as soon as the activity is over.

**9)** There should be no non-essential visitors within the center.

Parents or guardians are able to enter the program one at a time for pick up/drop off as long as they meet the Health and Wellness Questionnaire guidelines, use hand sanitizer and are wearing a mask.

**10)** Where possible, social distancing practices should occur, for example, *when possible* avoid close greetings like hugs or handshakes; however, we understand that the nature of childcare makes this inherently difficult with young children and leave it up to the comfort level of the individual staff- however strongly discourage any unnecessary close contact.

## **SECTION II:**

### **Staff attire:**

- Staff personal items such as purses and backpacks will be kept separate from other staff's items- please limit the amount of personal items you bring into the centre.
- Masks are required in common areas- whenever not eating. This includes the staff room, ped room, office, laundry area. Staff are also required to wear a mask when

entering a program other than their designated program. Masks during pick up & drop off times are also required.

- Disposable masks will be provided (while supplies last) to staff who need them; however, considering the environmental impact of disposable masks it is recommended that staff purchase reuseable/washable masks.

### **Staff Meetings and Meeting Rooms:**

- All Staff meetings will be held remotely via Zoom until further notice
- Maximum 3 people in the Staff room at a time for meals- excess staff may eat in the Wildcat Classroom
- Maximum 3 people in the Ped room at a time. Utilize the Staff room and Wildcat Room when more than 3 need to be on Ped time.
- Maximum 2 people in the office space corner at a time.
- Maximum 2 people in the Kitchen space at a time.

### **Toys & Equipment:**

- Classroom toys and supplies will be limited to items that are easily cleaned.
- Disposable wipes and paper towels will be used in place of linen towels.
- Staff may choose to limit toys/equipment in the outdoor spaces to allow for easier sanitation.
- Children's cubby belongings will be kept separate from one another as much as possible.
- Items such as soothers are permitted, but under strict supervision and will require disinfecting after each use. Soothers will need to be stored in a clean, labelled container with a lid.
- No outside toys from home under any circumstances. Childcare sleep items will be permitted and laundered daily- but only for use when napping.

### **Social Distancing Among Children**

- It has been agreed upon among working staff that social distancing for children while they are engaged in learning/play would be detrimental to their mental wellbeing and developmental growth; therefore, children will be permitted to play within close contact of each other. Kissing/hugging/wrestling etc. will be discouraged.
- Staff will continue to focus on connection and attachment with children- ie: cuddling, rocking, holding children when deemed necessary.

### **Sleeping and Feeding Protocol**

- Bedding will be disinfected and washed weekly. Bedding will be stored in a closed container.
- Tables and chairs will be sanitized before and after eating, as well as the surrounding floor around the eating area.
- Lunch items need to be stored in a clean lunch bag/box and stored separately from other children's items.

## **SECTION III:**

### **Sanitation Protocols**

- Staff should be following regular BC Childcare licensing sanitation protocols of 1 tablespoon of household **bleach** per 1 gallon of water or 1 teaspoon of household **bleach** per 1 litre of water to sanitize all surfaces, objects and high touch point areas.
- Floors in all areas used will need to be mopped with a disinfectant solution. If time/space allows, once midday (while children are outdoors or asleep) and **always at end of shift.**
- After toys are sanitized they need to be set in an area away from playing children to dry for at least 10 minutes. Bleach evaporates in 10 minutes.
- Bleach solution kept in spray bottles must be replaced and replenished daily as bleach degrades quickly when mixed with water and exposed to light.
- Spray bottles with soapy water can be used to clean soiled areas, but must be followed up with bleach solution to sanitize.
- When using spray bottles to clean, spray your paper towel first, then wipe to avoid airborne irritants, or only spray when there are no persons nearby.

#### **SECTION IV:**

##### **Mental Health & Wellbeing**

- In these unprecedented circumstances mental health is just as important as physical. Staff are encouraged to give feedback and share their feelings if the centre is re-opening too quickly for their comfort level. An effort will be made to ensure all working staff are comfortable with any changes with these policies.
- BC Mental Health and Crisis line Services are listed below

The Crisis Line Association of BC (CLABC) is the provincial association representing member crisis lines from across British Columbia. Members of CLABC provide emotional support, crisis and suicide assessment and intervention, and resource information. Crisis line workers are trained in critical skills such as empathetic reflection, active listening, and collaborative problem solving. They use crisis and suicide assessment and intervention protocols that are based on recognized better practices. The following crisis line services are available:

- [1-800-SUICIDE \(1-800-784-2433\)](tel:18007842433): for individuals who are or know someone who is having thoughts of suicide. The service is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and in up to 140 languages. Operated in partnership with Crisis Intervention and Suicide Prevention Centre of BC.
- [310-Mental Health \(310-6789\)](tel:3106789): for individuals who would like emotional support, information and resources specific to mental health in British Columbia. The service is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and is toll-free anywhere in British Columbia (no need to dial an area code).
- [Map of Crisis Lines](#): provides an interactive map to search for the direct number to local crisis line services in British Columbia. While 1-800-SUICIDE is available across the province and is designed to transfer callers to the local crisis line service closest to the community of the caller, in some instances individuals may prefer to contact the crisis line in their community direct.