



## **COVID-19 Safety Protocol**

Daycares are deemed an important part of the social infrastructure to support parents returning to work. We recognize that they are also critical to the continuation of a child's psycho-social development, as well as learning. Therefore, we are committed to providing a safe environment for children and staff.

However, our parents will also play a particularly important role in ensuring that our schools are able to continue to stay open, by taking additional measures in the interest of the health and safety of all children.

### **What we will do:**

- Continue to closely monitor announcements of the federal and provincial governments, as well as the health authorities and follow their directives.
- Wear a mask when interacting with parents and other adults if unable to maintain physical distancing.
- If possible, send home right away the staff who develops symptoms while at work. If not possible, the staff must separate themselves into an area away from others, maintain physical distance, and wear a mask until substitute staff will arrive to maintain teachers-children ratio.
- Hand shaking at the door between children and teachers upon arrival will be suspended.
- Instruction on proper sneezing/coughing technique will be given at circle time, and at any time a child is observed not doing it properly.
- Contact the child parents if he starts to develop new symptoms of illness or symptoms consistent with a previously diagnosed health condition are getting worse. If the child exhibits the key symptoms of illness (fever, chills, cough, shortness of breath, loss of sense of smell or taste, nausea, vomiting and diarrhea), he needs to be picked up from school right away. The symptomatic child will be separated from others in a supervised area until he is able to go home.
- Practice proper hand washing with increased frequency, as follows:
  - when they arrive at the centre and before they go home
  - before eating and drinking
  - after using the toilet
  - after playing outside
  - after sneezing or coughing into hands
  - whenever hands are visibly dirty.
- Clean and sanitize all commonly touched surfaces with increased frequency (this includes tables, chairs, classroom and washroom counters, shelves with learning materials and toys, as well as all doorknobs).
- Maximize the time children will spend outdoors when weather permits.
- Practice physical distancing among children where and when possible and practical.

**What we will not do:**

- Admit any staff member who exhibits the most common symptoms of COVID-19.
- Admit parents or guardians inside school premises at any time when children are present, unless necessary.
- Hold on-site conferences, interviews, observations, or concerts.
- Serve group food snacks or allow food and drink to be shared.

**What parents need to do:**

- Must assess their child daily for symptoms of illness before sending them to school.
- A child exhibiting key symptoms of illness (fever, chills, cough, shortness of breath, loss of sense of smell or taste, nausea, vomiting and diarrhea) must be kept at home until the symptoms are no longer present.
- For mild symptoms without fever (sneezing, runny nose, sore throat, headaches, fatigue) children should be monitor at home for 24 hours. If symptoms improve, they can return to school without further assessment.
- If symptoms include fever, or if after 24 hours, symptoms remain unchanged or worsen, seek a health assessment by calling 8-1-1 or a primary care provider like a physician or nurse practitioner.
- Send a non-medical mask with their child to be kept in school (in a zip lock bag labeled with the child's name). If a child starts to develop minor symptoms of cold/flu (sneezing, coughing) he should wear a mask until he is picked up. The staff caring for the child should wear a mask as well.
- Must inform the school about child's absence via email or phone.
- Not enter the School premises when dropping off or picking up a child.
- Provide personal food snacks and drinks and lunch, where applicable.

**If a staff or child attending the facility is a confirmed case of Covid-19 through testing, we will:**

- Notify the Licensing Office of the potential exposure including the last date the individual attended the school.
- Clean the facility and continue to implement the prevention measures.
- Continue to monitor the health of staff and children by conducting daily health checks.
- Wait for the Public Health response. If necessary, guidance letters will be provided by Public Health to be shared with families and staff, ensuring that personal privacy rights are maintained, and the information is complete and accurate.

As we navigate through the uncharted circumstances presented by the COVID-19 pandemic, it is important to keep in mind the fluidity of the situation and new, or changing, circumstances. Therefore, be aware that as the situation evolves and as new, or additional measures are put in place by the regulators, this Protocol is subject to change.

In the meantime, we encourage all of our families and staff to take the initiative and do their part to ensuring their own health and safety, which in turn will reduce the spread of the virus throughout the community.