

2022

Bethany Child Care Centre COVID-19 SAFETY PLAN

WORKSAFE BC / BC MINISTRY OF HEALTH / BC CENTRE FOR DISEASE CONTROL

BETHANY CHILD CARE CENTRE | RICHMOND BC

Bethany Child Care Centre

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Understanding our risk

“Based on the current epidemiology of COVID-19 in B.C., and the fact that children are at a much lower risk of developing COVID-19, child care providers are encouraged to remain or re-open, while supporting the health and safety of children and adults. Child care services should adapt as much as possible to implement public health and infection prevention and control measures, including staying home when ill, physical distancing, minimized physical contact, hand hygiene, frequent cleaning and disinfection, as described in this guidance.”

COVID-19 and Children

- COVID-19 virus has a very low infection rate in children. In B.C., less than 1% of children and youth tested have been COVID-19 positive. Most children are not at high risk for COVID-19 infection.
- Children under 1 year of age and older children with immune suppression and medical complexity are considered more vulnerable and at higher risk for illness
- Children who are considered more vulnerable can attend child care. Parents and caregivers are encouraged to consult with their health care provider to determine if their child should attend child care if they are uncertain.
- Children and youth typically have much milder symptoms of COVID-19 most often presenting with low-grade fever and a dry cough. GI symptoms are more common over the course of disease, while skin changes and lesions, are less common.
- Many children have asymptomatic disease. However, there is no conclusive evidence that children who are asymptomatic pose a risk to other children or to adults.
- Evidence indicates transmission involving children is primarily limited to household settings, and from COVID-19 positive adults to children. Most cases in children have been linked to a symptomatic household member.
- Clusters and outbreaks involving children and youth are unusual and tend only to occur in areas where there are high levels of community spread.
- Children are not the primary drivers of COVID-19 spread in child care facilities, schools or in community settings. Childcare facility closures have significant negative mental health and socioeconomic impacts on vulnerable children and youth.
- Prevention measures and mitigation strategies involving children and youth must be commensurate with risk.

- For younger children maintaining physical distance is less practical and the focus should be on minimizing physical contact instead.

Reference:

[Covid-19 – Public Health Guidance for Child Care Settings: BC Centre for Disease Control, BC Ministry of Health](#), March 18 2022 – PDF

The risk in the Bethany Child Care Centre is primarily between adults – Educators, Administrators, Parents.

- Parents are to remain outside the building until the end of April 2022
- Parents are asked to wash hands or use hand sanitizer
- Educators are encouraged to keep appropriate distance between them as is practical in delivering child care.
- Common items/tools used in the classroom are to be sanitized on the twice-daily sanitization schedule for all high touch surfaces.
- Visitors welcome will have to sign in and wash hands and wear mask.

Protocols to reduce the risk

Access to child care facilities

- Administrators, Educators, children, parents and guardians must not enter the workplace if they have symptoms of COVID-19.
- People who have been exposed to Covid 19, including staff or children in child care, should monitor for symptoms of Covid -19. As long as they do not have symptoms, they are not required to stay home and may continue to attend child care.
- Signage is posted at entrance of centre reminding people not to enter the site if they are sick or have symptoms associated with COVID-19.
- Administrators and Educators with symptoms of COVID-19 will be excluded from work, stay home and self-isolate until their symptoms have resolved.
- Parents / Guardians are required to assess their children daily for the presence of symptoms of common cold, influenza, COVID-19, or other infectious respiratory disease prior to drop off.
- Parents / Guardians must keep their children at home until their symptoms have resolved or stay home for 7 -10 days AND have their symptoms resolved.
- If a child becomes ill in care, they will immediately be isolated from the group with an Educator and children over age two will both wear a mask until the child is picked up...

- At this time, Bethany Child Care Centre visitors to the facility. Anyone requesting access to the centre other than the Licensing Officer must be approved by the Director.
- Bethany will still be open to supporting E.C.E. practicum students after a health and Safety check.

Pick up and drop off

Drop off and pick up should continue to occur outside of the centre or in a designate parent drop off space close to the front door until the end of April 2022 where at this time we will review Covid safety plan and notify parents of any changes to Pick up and drop off.

Hand Hygiene

- Hand washing, hygiene and respiratory protocols are posted.
- Hand hygiene stations are available at the entrance of all centres.
- Children are immediately taken to wash hands on arrival.
- Keep hand sanitizer out of the reach of children and supervise its use.
- Educators will wash their hands regularly throughout the day, including:
 - When they arrive at the centre and before they go home
 - Before and after handling food (raw, cooked or pre-packaged), preparing bottles or feeding children
 - Before and after giving or applying medication or ointment to a child or self
 - After changing diapers
 - After assisting a child to use the toilet
 - After using the toilet » After contact with body fluids (e.g., runny noses, spit, vomit, blood)
 - Before donning and after doffing personal protective equipment
 - After cleaning tasks
 - After handling garbage
 - Whenever hands are visibly dirty
- Children will be supported to wash their hands regularly throughout the day, including:
 - When they arrive and before they go home
 - Before and after eating and drinking
 - After a diaper change
 - After using the toilet
 - After playing outside
 - After sneezing or coughing
 - Whenever hands are visibly dirty
- All Bethany Child Care Centre Staff and children will be directed to:
 - Cough or sneeze into their elbow sleeve or a tissue.

- Throw away used tissues and immediately perform hand hygiene.
- Not touch their eyes, nose or mouth with unwashed hands.

Face Coverings.

- Are no longer required by public health, Adults (including staff, practicum students, volunteers and visitors) and children over two years old in child care settings may wear mask based on personal or family choice.
- The staff will ensure opportunities for the children to remove their masks i: e lunch, outside etc.
- The staff will supervise and support children to ensure safe and proper use of masks if a child or their family chooses to wear a mask. The choice of staff, families or children to choose whether they practice additional personal prevention measures will be supported and treated with respect.
- Information on non-medical masks is available from BCCDC.

Physical distancing

- Educators and Administrators should maintain a distance of at least 2 metres from each other when practical. Where this is not possible, for example when transferring a very young child from one worker to another, plan and communicate the work task in advance to ensure that time spent in close proximity is minimized.
- COVID-19 occupancy limits for common areas in centres are posted.
- As often as possible incorporate activities involving books and individual games to encourage physical distancing between children.
- We recognise that it is not always possible or appropriate for Educators to maintain physical distance from children, and between children, when in care. We will adhere to the principle of physical distancing where possible, by:
 - Minimizing the frequency of direct physical contact with children.
 - Forming a number of separate play areas in order to space children apart. Note that children who live in the same home do not need to maintain physical distance from each other.
 - Creating smaller groups or cohorts of children and keeping these groups separate from each other.
 - Minimizing the number of different workers that interact with the same child or group of children.
 - Organizing snack/meal areas to space children apart.
 - Organizing nap areas to space children apart and placing children head-to-toe or toe-to-toe.
 - Including the use of outdoor space for various activities, including snack/meal time, while adhering to physical distancing and hygiene principles.

Cleaning and disinfection

- Remove toys from the centre that have surfaces that are not easily cleaned, such as plush stuffed animals.
- Ask parents and caregivers to only bring personal comfort items (e.g., stuffed animals) if they are clean and laundered each day.
- Remove unnecessary items from the workplace to reduce surfaces that could become contaminated.
- Identify all common areas (e.g., washrooms) and frequently touched surfaces (e.g., doorknobs, cupboard handles, light switches, faucet handles, tables, chairs, toys). Develop and implement a cleaning and disinfection schedule and procedures in accordance with the BC CDC's Cleaning and Disinfectants for Public Settings document.
 - **General cleaning and disinfecting of the workplace should occur at least once a day.**
 - **Frequently touched surfaces should be cleaned and disinfected at least twice a day.**
- Toys and objects that children have placed in their mouths should be set aside, for example in a "to be washed" bin, until they are cleaned and disinfected. Toy, objects, and surfaces known to have been in contact with bodily fluids should be cleaned as soon as possible and between uses by different children.
- Clean and disinfect cots and cribs after each use, and launder crib linens between children. If parents are providing their own crib linen, the linens should be laundered and placed in a sealed plastic or washable bag before bringing to the centre. Do not shake the linens.
- Clean and disinfect diapering stations after each use.
- When holding young children, for example when feeding or rocking to sleep, use a blanket or cloth to cover clothing. Change blankets or cloths between children.
- Wash blankets, face cloths, towels, and bibs between uses by different children.
- Empty garbage containers daily at a minimum.
- If an Educator or child leaves the workplace due to symptoms of COVID-19, clean areas those individuals were in, including surfaces they may have touched, immediately upon their departure.
- Maintain an adequate supply of cleaning and disinfection products and materials.

Use of personal protective equipment (PPE)

- COVID-19 Public Health Guidance for Child Care Settings states that personal protective equipment, such as masks and gloves, are not needed beyond those used by staff as part of regular precautions for the hazards normally encountered in their regular course of work.
- Wear disposable gloves when cleaning body fluids (e.g., runny nose, vomit, stool, urine) and when diapering.
- Determine what PPE may be required for workers who are responsible for cleaning and disinfection. Read product labels and Safety Data Sheets to help make this determination.

Meals and snacks

- Do not allow sharing of food or drink by workers or children.
- Do not use self-serve and family-style meal service. Provide snacks and meals directly to children in individual servings.
- Do not use self-serve water dispensers at this time
- Ensure children's water bottles are distanced from each other at all times.
- Educators to refill all water bottles as needed
- Store all food safely in the provided plastic bins or in the fridge as is applicable
- Do not allow children to participate in food preparation.
- Reusable dishware, glasses, and utensils must be cleaned and sanitized after each use.

Other methods to control risk

- Limit sharing of supplies and equipment (e.g., pens, telephone, tablets, computer mouse) between workers.
- Provide adequate amounts of high touch materials, such as art supplies, in order to minimize sharing between children.
- Store children's belongings separately, for example through the use of cubbies.
- Do not allow sharing of soothers, bottles, sippy cups, toothbrushes or other personal items. Label personal items with the child's name to prevent accidental sharing.
- Ensure adequate ventilation and open windows if possible.
- Have children outside wherever possible, including play time, snack time, and for learning activities.

Bethany Child Care Centre will close if directed by Public Health, or due to operational reasons, for instance if illness among staff and were unable to maintain staff to child ratios as required under Child Care Licensing Regulations we will have to close program and in worst case close the centre.

Everyone at Bethany Child Care Centre is dedicated to keeping the Children Healthy and Safe.

Be kind, be calm, be Safe.