

# New Life Child Care Centre Covid-19 Safety Plan, (updated April 15, 2021)

## Access to New Life Child Care Centre

Staff, children, parents, and caregivers must not enter the workplace if they have symptoms of COVID-19 or have travelled outside of Canada in the last 14 days.

- Parents and caregivers are required to assess their children daily for the presence of symptoms of common cold, influenza, COVID-19, or other infectious respiratory diseases *prior to drop off*. If symptoms are present, parents / caregivers must keep their children at home until they have been assessed by a health care provider (you can call 811 for advice) to exclude COVID-19 or other infectious diseases, and their symptoms have resolved.
- At drop off, parents will be asked to give a verbal confirmation of the above and that children do not have symptoms of common cold, influenza, COVID-19, or other respiratory diseases. A child may not be accepted if the answer is yes.
- Please do not bring your child to the Centre if anyone in your household is waiting for the result of a Covid-19 test.

## Drop-off and Pick-up

- Drop-off : Parents/caregivers will no longer enter the Centre to sign-in their child. Instead she/he will be met by a staff member at the entrance and asked if they have assessed their child's health status that morning. The staff member will then receive the child and their belongings, sign the child in to the Centre, take the child to the washroom to wash their hands and then take them to their program. Only one parent at a time will be greeted. Parents must self-distance while waiting their turn.
- Pick-up : Please do not enter the Centre. The child will be brought to the entrance/exit point by a staff member and the staff member will sign out each child. Only one parent at a time will be greeted. Please self-distance while you wait your turn.
- Parents/care-givers should wear masks when they are dropping-off/picking up their children.

## Hand Hygiene and Respiratory Etiquette

Hand washing, hygiene and respiratory protocols for staff and children will be set in place and implemented. Signage will be posted as reminders. Staff are to wash their hands regularly throughout the day, including:

- When they arrive at the workplace 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

Staff will support children to wash their hands regularly throughout the day, including:

- When they arrive at the Centre 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

Staff and workers and children are 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.

## Physical Distancing

It is not always possible for workers to maintain physical distance from children, and between children, when in care. However we will aspire 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 for each child. (Note that children who live in the same home do not need to maintain physical distance 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.
- Increasing the use of our outdoor space for various activities, including snack/meal time, while adhering to physical distancing and hygiene principles.

## Cleaning and Disinfection

We have always followed a rigorous daily cleaning schedule in our Centre but there will be an increased level of cleaning to ensure we are following the B.C. Provincial guidelines. General cleaning and disinfecting of the workplace will occur at least once a day and frequently-touched surfaces (e.g. door handles, table-tops, faucets, chairs, toys) will be cleaned and disinfected at least twice a day. We will be following the advice given by B.C. Centre for Disease Control for public settings.

Information signage will be posted in appropriate areas.

Unnecessary items will be removed from the rooms to reduce surfaces that could become contaminated and allow for extra space.

- Garbage containers will continue to be emptied daily at a minimum.
- Diapering stations must be cleaned and disinfected after each use.
- 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. Toys, 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.
- Cots and cribs will be cleaned and disinfected after each use, and children will continue to use only their own crib linens.

- Face cloths and bibs will continue to be washed between uses by different children.
- If a child or staff member leaves the Centre due to symptoms of COVID-19, the areas those individuals were in must be cleaned and disinfected, including surfaces they may have touched, immediately upon their departure.

### Use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

Masks should be worn by staff when interacting with other adults when safe distancing cannot be maintained, and at all times when in the kitchen. It is strongly recommended that disposable gloves are used when cleaning body fluids (e.g., runny nose, vomit, stool, urine, blood) and when diapering.

### Meals and Snacks

A high temperature sanitizing dishwasher is used for all used plates, cups, utensils and lunch-storage trays.

- All cups are individually named.
- Meals are not shared. Snacks and meals will be given directly to children in individual servings.

### Other Risk Reducers

The Centre must have updated emergency contact information and parents must have an emergency pick-up plan that can be enacted should their child fall ill at the Centre.

High touch materials, such as art supplies, will be bagged individually in order to minimize sharing between children.

Children's belongings will continue to be stored separately. All personal items should be named to avoid accidental sharing.

## Protocol for a Child with Symptoms of COVID-19

Staff must take the following steps:

- Identify a staff member to supervise the child.
- The identified staff member should immediately separate the symptomatic child from others in a supervised area until they can go home.
- Contact the child's parent or caregiver to pick them up right away. Parents or caregivers must pick up their child promptly once notified that their child is ill.
- Where possible, maintain a distance of 2 metres from the ill child. If this is not possible, the staff member may use a mask if available and tolerated, or use a tissue to cover their nose and mouth.
- Provide the child with tissues, and support as necessary so they can practice respiratory hygiene.
- Open outside doors and windows to increase air circulation in the area.
- Avoid touching the child's body fluids. If you do, wash your hands.
- Once the child is picked up, wash your hands.
- Clean and disinfect the space where the child was separated and any areas used by the child (e.g., bathroom, common areas).
- If concerned, contact the local public health unit to seek further advice.

## Protocol for a Staff Member with Symptoms of Covid-19

The staff member should go home right away where possible. If unable to leave immediately, the symptomatic staff person should:

- Separate themselves into an area away from others.
- Maintain a distance of 2 metres from others.
- Use a tissue or mask to cover their nose and mouth while they wait to be picked up.
- Remaining staff must clean and disinfect the space where staff was separated and any areas used by them (e.g., office, bathroom, common areas).
- If concerned, contact the local public health unit to seek further advice.
- Staff must be excluded from work, stay home and self-isolate until they have been assessed by a health care provider to exclude COVID-19 or other infectious diseases, AND their symptoms have resolved.