

OUR FAMILY GUIDE TO COVID-19 AND RETURNING TO CHILD CARE

Please read the following so that you and your child(ren) have a smoother adjustment when returning to the child care centre. It will take all of us being mindful and respectful of the guidelines every day to be successful. It may be a bit tedious and much different than the way we are used to doing things but it is necessary. The safety of our child care community is a big responsibility but by taking the time to follow the rules daily, we will continue to protect each other and our families. We will all soon become comfortable and confident in our new routines.

HOW CAN YOU PREPARE YOUR CHILD TO RETURN TO CHILD CARE?

- Practice proper handwashing at home and make frequent handwashing a part of your daily routine.
- Remind children to avoid touching their own face and encourage them to practice “catching” their cough or sneeze in their elbow.
- Talk about having patience with the new routines and each other. Things may take longer, but it is necessary for people to be safe.
- Encourage their questions and reassure them that the staff at the child care centre are working very hard to make their environment safe and fun.

WHAT ARE YOUR FAMILY’S RESPONSIBILITIES?

- Monitor your family and child(ren) specifically for atypical symptoms of COVID-19
- Follow all recommendations by Public Health or other health care providers.
- Any individual who develops symptoms of ill health within 14 days of attending the centre will be required to report those symptoms to the centre.
- Comply with all Public Health/UCCC directives or procedures put in place to safeguard staff and children including exclusion guidelines [Coronavirus disease \(COVID-19\): Prevention and risks](#) and [COVID-19: reopening child care centres](#) due to illness.
- Make arrangements to pick up an ill child from child care, quickly, once notified.

WHAT SHOULD YOUR CHILD BRING TO CHILD CARE?

- They should bring only items necessary for the child’s care. Personal toys and books, etc. will **not** be allowed.
- Please label all your child’s personal belongings. This will help us avoid accidental sharing.
- Be prepared to leave bottles, pacifiers, sippy cups at the centre to minimize chance exposure to contagions.
- Remember your child’s personal sunscreen and other skin care products.
- Personal strollers and wagons **must** be left outside of the centre/outdoor playgrounds and away from high traffic areas. Please leave them in the designated area.

PLEASE BE AWARE

- Everyone (staff, children, families) **must** stay home if they are sick, even if their symptoms resemble a mild cold.
- Anyone (staff, children, families) with symptoms of COVID-19 should be tested as soon as possible and self-isolate until their result is available. Anyone who remains untested will be excluded for 14 days.
- Everyone (staff, children, families, essential visitors) must complete a preliminary health screening process prior to arrival at a child care centre or prior to entering the centre.
- Only one parent/guardian and only enrolled children, should come to the child care centre if possible.

ARRIVAL/DEPARTURE

- A screening station with hand sanitizer will be set up outside of the entrance designated for **drop-off** and **pick-up** of children.
- In inclement weather, screening/pick-up will be conducted inside the entrance of the child care centre.
- Please follow visual marking cues and physically distance from others while waiting.
- **All children, staff, and visitors will have their temperatures checked upon arrival and before entering the centre. Anyone with a fever (37.8C or above) will not be permitted to enter.**
- Please respect staggered drop-off and pick-up times.
- Screening staff will escort each child to their classroom once they have passed the screening process, and from their classrooms to meet parents at the designated pick up spot at the end of each day.

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Entrance

- Entrance is restricted to essential staff and enrolled children.
- Parents will **not** be permitted to enter the centre, **unless** required to support a child's individual needs.

THE CLASSROOM

What is a Cohort?

- A cohort refers to a group of children and the staff members who take care of them, who stay together throughout the duration of the program for at least one week.
- Ratios must be maintained according to the CCEYA.
- Each cohort will have an assigned classroom and will not mix with other cohorts or staff.

Our Program

- While maintaining physical distance between children in a child care setting is important, it is also critically important to maintain a warm and caring environment for children.
- Strategies will be employed to encourage physical distancing in each classroom. See section 6 under Environmental Set-Up and Physical Distancing found in our *COVID-19 Response Policy* (regional).

SANITARY PRACTICES

- Handwashing with soap and water is the preferred way to clean hands and extra hand washing will be included into the daily schedule. Educators will model and encourage proper handwashing procedures in a fun and relaxed way.
- For detailed information regarding our sanitary practices and our elevated cleaning and disinfecting procedures see section 6 under Cleaning and Disinfecting found in our policy.

COMMUNICATION WITH FAMILIES

- **Please stay in touch. Continue to check your emails regularly and email or call the centre if you need support.**
- Virtual meetings will be arranged as needed and large gatherings will not be held.

WHAT IF A CHILD OR STAFF BECOMES SICK WHILE IN THE PROGRAM?

- Staff and children will be monitored throughout the day for signs and symptoms of ill health.
- Parents/guardians will be notified immediately and ill children will be isolated until a family member or emergency contact can pick them up (this should be done as soon as possible).

WHAT IF A CONFIRMED COVID-19 CASE OCCURS AT YOUR CENTRE?

- If a COVID-19 outbreak is declared by local Public Health units, Public Health will guide all procedures and provide direction regarding who may need testing/isolation.
- Staff/children with symptoms, who have not been tested for COVID-19, must be excluded from child care for 14 days after the onset of symptoms.

Please contact your centre supervisor should you have any questions or concerns. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.