Strawberry Vale Preschool

Covid19 Safety Plan

May 27, 2020

**New Health/Illness Policy added to address Covid19 Protocol**

[www.strawberryvalepreschool.org](http://www.strawberryvalepreschool.org)

**Risk Assessment – Protocols added to current Health and Safety**

Identified Risk: Person to person contact

Child : Child, Child : Staff, Child : Volunteer /Parent, Volunteer/Parent : Staff

**Protocols in place to reduce the risk:**

* **Minimize physical contact**  child : child, child : staff, staff : staff
* **Physical distancing:** parents:child (that are not their family) parent : staff and parent: parent
* **Suspension of our Parent Volunteers** program in the classroom
* **Suspension of parent visitors** and open door policy (admittance upon approval)
* **Posted occupancy limit notice**
* **Posted distancing notices**
* **Posted handwashing notices**
* **Daily health** **check** before admittance to the program
* **Staggered drop off and pick up** with physical distancing markers
* **Outdoor drop off and pick up**
* **Handwashing & Hygiene** rigorous protocol meeting covid19 health standards
* **PPE** available for staff/child displaying symptoms identified while in program (mask/gloves) protocol in place to support staff or child with symptoms of Covid19
* **Increase outdoor** program time

Identified Risk: Surface transmission

* **High touch surfaces/equipment indoors** such as doorknobs, counter tops, bathrooms, light switches, tables, cabinet handles, pens, phone, fax machine, file cabinet tables, chairs etc.
* **High touch equipment outdoors** bikes, scooters, balls, hoops etc. sand toys, gate

**Protocols in place to reduce the risk:**

* **General cleaning and disinfecting** is done after each class
* **High touch surfaces/equipment indoors are disinfected mid and end of class** such as doorknobs, counter tops, bathrooms, light switches, tables, cabinet handles, pens, phone, fax machine, file cabinet tables, chairs etc.
* **High touch equipment outdoors are cleaned after each class:**  bikes, scooters, balls, hoops etc.
* **Designated outdoor toy bins** for each class to reduce class to class contact
* **Increased outdoor** program time
* **Restricted availability of toys & equipment** (each class has their own designated toys)
* **Removal of toys** and objects that are not easily cleaned such as stuffed animals, plush toys etc.
* **Increased frequency of toy cleaning**
* **Outdoor equipment is sanitized** between classes
* **Physically spaced cubby** area to reduce contact between children’s personal items
* **Elimination of shared sensory play table** items such as water play, sand, playdough etc.

**SVP Covid19 Health / Illness Policy**

Please remember that the Covid19 public health emergency is rapidly changing, and our ability to remain open may change without notice; or we may be ordered closed in the upcoming weeks by BC’s provincial health officer, Dr. Bonnie Henry,  and/or our licensing officer.

Dr. Henry maintains that childcare centres can safely care for children if they are following the prescribed health protocols.

**Accordingly, please note the following Covid19 Health and Wellness policy, which applies to all staff and children within this facility and is in addition to established preschool illness policy (pg. 35 parent manual).**

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| --- | --- |
| Fever is indicated by the following temperatureForehead/ Ear Temp. 38 C / 100 F | May return to childcare after 10 days or when symptom free, whichever is longer |
| Runny nose | May return to childcare after 10 days or when symptom free, whichever is longer |
| Cough | May return to childcare after 10 days or when symptom free, whichever is longer |
| Sore throat | May return to childcare after 10 days or when symptom free, whichever is longer |
| Difficulty breathing or wheezing  | May return to childcare after 10 days or when symptom free, whichever is longer |
| Unexplained fatigue, aches or cold/flu-like symptoms | May return to childcare after 10 days or when symptom free, whichever is longer |
| Sinus congestion | May return to childcare after 10 days or when symptom free, whichever is longer |
| Children who have, or children with others living in the same home who have just returned from international travel | May return after self-isolating for 14 days **and** being symptom free |
| Children who have, or children with others living in the same home who have been identified as at-risk of potential Covid19 exposure | May return after self-isolating for 14 days **and** being symptom free |

**Children may not attend childcare programs while they have any of the following symptoms:**

* unusual, unexplained loss of appetite, fatigue, irritability, or headache
* eye infections
* unexplained rashes *or* any rash that is not confirmed by doctor to be non-contagious
* known or suspected communicable diseases (measles, chicken pox, pink eye, hand foot and mouth, etc)
* ear infection
* nausea, vomiting and/or diarrhea in the last 48 hours

Parents will additionally be asked to confirm each morning that their child is symptom free and that their child has not been given acetaminophen or ibuprofen in the last 12 hours.

**Covid19 Plan: If a child begins to show symptoms while at preschool**

* notify parents/guardians if their child begins to show symptoms of COVID-19 including the need for immediate pick up.
* staff will isolate the child exhibiting symptoms from the group until the parent arrives
* staff will wear a disposable mask in hopes to encourage the child to wear a mask while awaiting pick up
* staff will alert local Medical Health Officer if there is a reported case
* While awaiting test results of someone with symptoms of COVID-19, staff will clean and disinfect any rooms the child was in while symptomatic. There is no need to take any further special precautions or to close the childcare setting.
* Public health officials will identify individuals who may have had contact with a COVID-19 infected person and alert childcare administrators to actions that should be taken. Close contacts of a confirmed case may be asked by public health officials to self-isolate.
* Please visit [www.bccdc.ca/](http://www.bccdc.ca/) contact for Medical Health officer contact information for each Health Authority.
* children who test negative for COVID-19 will be advised individually about return to childcare settings.

**Covid19 Plan: If a staff member begins to show symptoms while at preschool**

* Staff will report symptoms to senior staff/manager
* Staff will self isolate on site until replacement staff arrives or families arrive to pick up children to ensure staff/child ratio is met
* Staff will wear a mask while on the premises
* Staff will not return to work until a negative covid19 test result is confirmed or they have isolated for 14 days
* While awaiting test results of someone with symptoms of COVID-19, staff will clean and disinfect any rooms the staff member was in while symptomatic. There is no need to take any further special precautions or to close the childcare setting.
* Public health officials will identify individuals who may have had contact with a COVID-19 infected person and alert childcare administrators to actions that should be taken. Close contacts of a confirmed case may be asked by public health officials to self-isolate. Please visit [www.bccdc.ca](http://www.bccdc.ca) contact for Medical Health officer contact information for each Health Authority.

**Strawberry Vale Preschool**

**Covid19 Safety Plan -Protocols**

**Access to facility**

* 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 or have been identified by public health as a close contact of a person with a confirmed case of COVID-19.
* At drop off, a daily “yes/no” verbal confirmation that children do not have symptoms of common cold, influenza, COVID-19, or other respiratory disease. The child will not be accepted for drop off if the answer is yes.
* Telephone or video conferencing will be used when possible to meet with workers, parents, and caregivers.
* Parents and visitors have strict access limits to the facility.
* Any person entering the facility must wash their hands

**Exclusion from facility**

If a child develops symptoms while at home

* Children with symptoms of COVID-19 must be excluded. Parents and caregivers are required to assess the children daily for the presence of symptoms of common cold, influenza, COVID-19, or other infectious respiratory disease prior to drop off. Parents and caregivers must keep their children at home until they have been assessed by a health care provider to exclude COVID-19 or other infectious diseases, and their symptoms have resolved. \* Health/Illness policy
* Children suffering from seasonal allergies will seek medical clearance to ensure covid-like symptoms are confirmed allergy related

If a child develops symptoms while at preschool

Staff must take the following steps:

* Identify a staff member to supervise the child.
* 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.
* 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 and support the child to 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.

If staff develop symptoms while at home

* Staff with symptoms of COVID-19 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 disease, and their symptoms have resolved.
* Staff suffering from seasonal allergies will seek medical clearance to ensure covid-like symptoms are confirmed allergy related

If staff develop symptoms while at work

* Staff 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. 2. Maintain a distance of 2 metres from others.
* Use a mask to cover their nose and mouth while they wait for a replacement or 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.

 \*If a child or staff member is assessed by their family physician or nurse practitioner and it is determined that they do NOT have COVID-19, they may return to child care once symptoms resolve.

 \*If a person is found to be a confirmed case of COVID-19, staff will ensure there is robust contact tracing and management of any clusters or outbreaks. They will also ensure that children, staff and parents have access to health care providers and that appropriate supports are in place.

**When to perform Hand Hygiene**

**Children** should perform hand hygiene:

* When they arrive at the child care 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** should perform hand hygiene:

* When they arrive at the child care centre **and** before they go home
* Before and after handling food or children with their food containers
* Before and after giving or applying medication, ointment, sunscreen 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)
* After cleaning tasks
* After removing gloves
* After handling garbage

**How to perform hand hygiene:**

* Wash hands with plain soap and water for at least 20 seconds (sing the “ABC’s” or “Twinkle Twinkle Little Star”). o Antibacterial soap is not needed for COVID-19.
* If sinks are not available (e.g., children and staff are outside), use handwashing station or supervised use of alcohol-based hand sanitizer containing at least 60% alcohol may be considered.
* If hands are visibly soiled, alcohol-based hand sanitizers may not be effective at eliminating respiratory viruses. Soap and water are preferred when hands are visibly dirty.
* Hand hygiene stations are set up at the entrance, so that children can clean their hands when they enter.
* Additional hand hygiene opportunities are incorporated into the daily schedule.
* The centre is well-stocked with hand washing supplies at all times including plain soap, clean towels, paper towels, waste bins, and where appropriate, hand sanitizer with a minimum of 60% alcohol.
* Staff will assist young children with hand hygiene as needed.

**Cleaning and Disinfection**

The preschool will be cleaned and disinfected in accordance with the BCCDC’s Cleaning and Disinfectants for Public Settings document.

* General cleaning and disinfecting of the centre will occur after each class, bathrooms will be disinfected after each use
* Frequently-touched surfaces will be cleaned and disinfected at least twice a day. These include door knobs, light switches, faucet handles, table counters, chairs, electronic devices, and toys.
* Any surface that is visibly dirty will be cleaned and disinfected
* The preschool will use common, commercially-available detergents and disinfectant products and will follow the instructions on the label.
* Toys and other items that cannot be easily cleaned will be removed (e.g., avoid plush/stuffed toys).
* Garbage containers will be emptied daily, at minimum
* Disposable gloves will be worn when cleaning blood or body fluids (e.g., runny nose, vomit, stool, urine). Wash hands before wearing and after removing gloves.
* There is no evidence that the COVID-19 virus is transmitted via textbooks, paper or other paper-based products. As such, there is no need to limit the distribution of books or paper based educational resources to children

**Physical Distancing / Minimized Contact**

Staff should maintain physical distancing from one another when possible and maintain physical distancing from parents/care givers of the students

* Staff should minimize the frequency of direct physical contact with children and encourage children to minimize physical contact with each other
* It is reasonable to establish different expectations based on age and/or developmental readiness. For example:
* Younger children will be supported to have minimized direct contact with one another, while older children should be supported to maintain physical distance whenever possible
* Children from the same household (e.g., siblings) do not need to maintain physical distance from each other.

The following physical distancing strategies should be implemented **where possible** in the child care setting:

* Avoid close greetings (e.g., hugs, handshakes). Regularly remind children to keep “Hands to yourself”.
* Strive to minimize the number of different staff that interact with the same children throughout the day.
* When appropriate children may be organized into smaller groups and/or spread out to minimize direct physical contact. • Incorporate more individual activities or activities that encourage more space between children and staff.
* Staff will help younger children learn about physical distancing and less physical contact by creating games that include basic principles such as “two arm lengths apart”.
* Staggered snack or meal time will allow spacing between children during meals.
* The number of additional adults entering the centre will be minimized, unless that person is providing care and/or supporting inclusion of a child in care (e.g. supportive child care assistants, speech language pathologist, etc.)

**Pick-up and Drop-Off**

* Pick-up and drop-off of children will have staggered times and will occur outside the preschool building unless there is a need for the parent or caregiver to enter the setting (eg: a very young children). If a parent must enter the setting, they should maintain physical distance from staff and other children present and be reminded to practice diligent hand hygiene and maintain physical distance when they are in the facility.

* Distancing marker cones will be placed on sidewalk for families waiting to enter
* Daily health check at drop-off may be conducted by asking parents and caregivers to confirm that their child does not have symptoms of common cold, influenza, COVID-19, or other respiratory disease.
* Parents and caregivers should use their own pen and avoid touching the sign in/out sheet directly. Staff may sign on behalf of the parent/care giver with verbal consent. Parents and caregivers should practice hand hygiene before and after touching the sign in/out sheet.