

Strawberry Vale Preschool

Covid19 Safety Plan

Updated: September 10, 2021

New Health/Illness Policy added to address Covid19 Protocol

www.strawberryvalepreschool.org

Risk Assessment - Protocols added to current Health and Safety

Identified Risk: Person to person contact

Child : Child, Child : Staff, Child/Staff : Volunteer /Parent : Staff :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 regular Parent Volunteers** program in the classroom
*Reassess reinstatement of Duty Parents for January 2022
- **Parent Volunteers** will perform tasks that can be carried out without direct contact with staff or children (before class starts/end of class)
- **Suspension of spontaneous parent visitors** and open-door policy (admittance upon approval) Mask mandatory for all visitors
- **Parents permitted in the yard** if necessary to assist their child with transition **or** when performing outdoor duty assistant tasks
- **Posted occupancy limit notice**
- **Posted distancing notices**
- **Posted handwashing notices**
- **Daily health check** before admittance to the program
- **Outdoor drop off and pick up** with physical distancing markers
- **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, climber, gates

Protocols in place to reduce the risk:

- **General cleaning and disinfecting** is done after each class
- **High touch surfaces/equipment indoors are disinfected end of each 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, climber 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) or the toys are cleaned between class use on the same day.
- **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
- **Shared sensory play** items such as water play, playdough etc. will still be available with monitored hand washing before play.

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 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).

Please refer to the below chart to determine if your child meets the Daily Health Check - measure of "Good Health" required to attend preschool on any given day.

WHAT TO DO and WHEN TO GET TESTED for COVID 19

| | |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fever is indicated by the following temperature • Forehead/ Ear Temp. 38 C / 100 F • Chills • Cough • Loss of sense of smell or taste • Difficulty breathing | <p>1 (or more) of these symptoms:</p> <p>Stay Home and GET Covid TESTED</p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sore Throat • Loss of appetite • Headache • Body aches • Extreme Fatigue or Tiredness • Nausea or Vomiting • Diarrhea • Skin Changes or Rashes (in children) | <p>1 of these symptoms only</p> <p>Stay Home until you feel better and symptom free</p> <p>2 (or more) of these symptoms</p> <p>Stay Home and wait 24 hours to see if symptom free</p> <p>If still experiencing symptoms after 24 hours GET Covid TESTED</p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Runny Nose | <p>Stay home: return when symptom free</p> |
| <p>International Travel: Unvaccinated children returning from international travel must stay home from preschool 14 days</p> | <p>Stay Home: 14 days</p> |
| <p>If you or others living in the same home have just returned from international travel</p> | <p>Must follow current Public Health Orders</p> |
| <p>Children who have, or children with others living in the same home who have been identified as at-risk of potential Covid19 exposure</p> | <p>Stay Home</p> <p>Negative Covid Test required</p> |

As Per Strawberry Vale Preschool's Health Policy:

In addition, as Per Strawberry Vale Preschool's Health Policy Children may not attend 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 of good health**” which means they meet the above noted criteria and are symptom free **and** their child has not been given acetaminophen or ibuprofen in the last 12 hours as this would mask symptoms.

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/ 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
- 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 isolate and test for Covid 19. Please visit 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 been identified by public health as a close contact of a person with a confirmed case of COVID-19 A negative covid test result will be required.
- Unvaccinated adults & children, returning from international travel must stay away from preschool for 14 days following their return to Canada.
- At drop off, a daily check “Is your child of good health?” yes/no verbal confirmation is required, which indicates that children do not have symptoms outlined in our Daily Health Check list. The child will not be accepted for drop off if the answer is No
- Telephone or video conferencing will be used when possible, to meet with workers, parents, and caregivers.
- Parents and visitors have limited access to the facility.
- Any person entering the facility must wash their hands and sign a Health Check document

Exclusion from facility

- Unvaccinated adults & children, returning from **international travel** must stay away from preschool for 14 days following their return to Canada.

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 illness 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 of illness while at home

- Staff with symptoms of COVID-19 must be excluded from work, stay home, and follow the Covid Health Check. Staff will call 811 for public health guidance for Covid Testing and remain home until tested or symptoms resolve. If testing is not required, staff will remain home until 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.

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 person is found to be a confirmed case of COVID-19, staff will assist Health Authorities with contact tracing and management of any clusters or outbreaks-

When to perform Hand Hygiene

Children should perform hand hygiene:

- When they arrive at the childcare 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 childcare 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 70% 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 handwashing supplies at all times, including plain soap, clean towels, paper towels, waste bins, and where appropriate, hand sanitizer with a minimum of 70% 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 doorknobs, 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 childcare 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”.
- Outside 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 must wear a mask, 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~~ will be conducted by asking parents and caregivers to confirm that their child does not have symptoms of illness and are “Of Good Health”.
- Staff will 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 /iPad.