Strawberry Vale Preschool

COVID-19 Safety Plan

Updated: March 6, 2022

Reviewing the latest Public Health Guidance for Childcare Settings, updated February 7, 2022, Strawberry Vale Preschool has updated the COVID-19 Safety Plan and Protocols.

**Key updates:**

* 5-day absence requirement for children who have identified as, or children with others living in the same home who have been identified as, having COVID-19
* Removal of physical distancing cones for pick up and drop off
* Removal of mask requirement for parent/caregiver at pick up and drop off UNLESS the parent/caregiver enters the preschool yard or building
* Masks for staff members within the outdoor areas of the preschool yard are optional

**Health/Illness Policy added to address COVID-19 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/Staff:Volunteer/Parent; Staff:Staff

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

* **Minimize physical contact** Child:Child, Child:Staff, Staff:Staff,
* **Physical distancing:** Volunteer/Parent:Child (that are not their family) Volunteer/Parent:Staff, and Volunteer/Parent:Volunteer/Parent
* **Suspension of our regular Parent Volunteers** program in the classroom \*Reassess reinstatement of Duty Parents for spring 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 necessaryto assist their child with transition **or** when performing outdoor duty assistant tasks; masks mandatory
* **Posted occupancy limit notice**
* **Posted distancing notices**
* **Posted handwashing notices**
* **Daily health** **check** before admittance to the program
* **Outdoor drop off and pick up**
* **Handwashing & Hygiene** rigorous protocol meeting COVID-19 health standards
* **PPE** available for staff/child displaying symptoms identified while in program (mask/gloves); protocols in place to support staff or child with symptoms of COVID-19
* **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; playdough portioned out for individual use
* **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 available with monitored hand washing before play

**Strawberry Vale Preschool COVID-19 Health/Illness Policy**

Please remember that the COVID-19 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 COVID-19 Health/Illness 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 information on page 4 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 for COVID-19**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| * **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** | **1 (or more) of these symptoms:**  **Stay Home and**  **Consult 811 for guidance regarding testing or self-isolate** |
| * **Sore Throat** * **Loss of appetite** * **Headache** * **Body aches** * **Extreme Fatigue or Tiredness** * **Nausea or Vomiting** * **Diarrhea** * **Skin Changes or Rashes (in children)** | **1 of these symptoms only**  **Stay Home until you feel better and symptom free**  **2 (or more) of these symptoms**  **Stay Home and wait 24 hours to see if symptom free**  **If still experiencing symptoms after 24 hours**  **contact 811 for guidance** |
| * **Runny Nose** | **Stay home**: return when symptom free |
| **International Travel:** Unvaccinated children returning from international travel must stay home from preschool 14 days | **Stay Home: 14 days** |
| If you or others living in the same home have just returned from **international travel** | Must follow current Public Health Orders |
| Children who have, or children with **others living in the same home who have, been identified as having COVID-19** | **Stay Home**  **5 days** |

**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 that they meet the above noted criteria and are symptom free **and** that their child has not been given acetaminophen or ibuprofen in the last 12 hours as this could mask symptoms.

**Additionally, if there is a confirmed case of COVID-19 in the child’s home, we request that parents please notify Strawberry Vale Preschool so that potential spread and outbreaks can be controlled; as with any health disclosure, the children’s and families’ privacy will be respected and maintained.**

**Strawberry Vale Preschool**

**COVID-19 Safety Plan - Protocols**

**Access to facility**

* Staff, children, parents, and caregivers must not enter the workplace for 5 days if they have COVID-19 or if someone else in their home has COVID-19
* Unvaccinated adults and 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 required, which indicates that children do not have symptoms outlined in our Daily Health Check list. A child will not be accepted for drop off if the parent/caregiver can’t confirm that the child is of good health.
* Telephone or video conferencing will be used to meet with workers, parents, and caregivers, when possible
* Parents and visitors have limited access to the facility
* Any person entering the facility must wash their hands or hand sanitize and sign a Health Check document

**Protocol: Child has tested positive for COVID-19, or COVID-19 suspected**

* The child must stay away from the preschool as per the following scenarios:
  + 5 days if someone in the household has COVID-19 (and is not completely isolated) OR themselves have tested positive or COVID-19 is suspected
* In all cases:
  + The number of days count begins at the date of symptom onset or positive test result, whichever is earlier
  + At the end of the child’s absence, they must also be in “good health” and not show signs/symptoms listed in our COVID-19 Safety Plan that would exclude them from returning to preschool.

**Protocol: Staff member has tested positive for COVID-19, or COVID-19 is suspected**

* Staff member must stay away from the preschool as per the following scenarios:
  + 5 days if someone in the household has COVID-19 (and is not completely isolated) OR themselves have tested positive or COVID-19 is suspected

**Protocol: Child develops symptoms while at home**

* Children experiencing COVID-19 symptoms are required to stay home until symptoms resolve. Please reference the Health/Illness policy in the Parent Manual.
* Children suffering from known seasonal allergies will be exempt from exclusion. Medical clearance to ensure COVID-19 like symptoms are confirmed as allergy related may be requested by the preschool.

**Protocol: Child develops symptoms while at preschool**

* Staff will identify a staff member to supervise the child
* Staff will isolate the child exhibiting symptoms from the group until the parent arrives
* Staff will notify parents/guardians if their child begins to show symptoms of COVID-19 including the need for immediate pick up
* Staff will wear a disposable mask and encourage the child to wear a mask while awaiting pick up
* If inside, staff will open outside doors and windows to increase air circulation in the area
* Staff will avoid touching the child’s bodily fluids and will wash hands if contact occurs
* Staff will clean and disinfect any rooms that the child was in while symptomatic
* Staff can contact the local public health unit to seek advice, as needed

**Protocol: Staff member develop symptoms while at home**

* Staff with symptoms of COVID-19 must be excluded from work, stay home, and follow the COVID-19 Health Check. Staff will call 811 for public health guidance regarding COVID-19 testing and remain home until tested or symptoms resolve. If testing is not required, staff will remain home until symptoms have resolved. Staff will follow current BCCDC guidelines for return-to-work policies for vaccinated adults and/or Strawberry Vale Preschool organizational policies, whichever is more stringent.
* Staff suffering from seasonal allergies may be asked to provide medical clearance to ensure COVID-19 like symptoms are confirmed as allergy related.

**Protocol: Staff member develops symptoms while at work**

* Staff will report symptoms to senior staff/manager
* Staff should go home immediately or self-isolate on site until replacement staff arrives or families arrive to pick up children, to ensure staff:child ratio is met
* Staff will maintain a distance of 2 metres from others
* Staff will wear a mask while on site
* Staff will follow current public health/BC Centre for Disease Control (BCCDC) guidance for return-to-work protocol
* Remaining staff will clean and disinfect the space where staff was separated and any areas used by them (e.g., office, bathroom, common areas).
* Staff can contact the local public health unit to seek further advice, as needed
* 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

**References:**

<http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/if-you-have-covid-19#:~:text=Stay%20home%20until%20you%20feel,the%20start%20of%20your%20symptoms>.

<http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/self-isolation/close-contacts>

<http://www.bccdc.ca/Health-Info-Site/Documents/COVID_public_guidance/Guidance_Child_Care.pdf>

**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:**

* Hand hygiene stations are set up at the entrance so that children can clean their hands when they enter
* Wash hands with plain soap and water for at least 20 seconds (sing the “ABC’s” or “Twinkle Twinkle Little Star”). 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
* 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.
* 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/caregivers.

* It is reasonable to establish different expectations based on age and/or developmental readiness
* Children will be supported to have limited direct contact with one another
* Children from the same household (e.g., siblings) do not need to maintain physical distance from each other
* Staff use of masks in outdoor spaces is optional

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

* Avoid close greetings (e.g., hugs, handshakes).
* 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 small group 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 mealtime 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 childcare assistants, speech language pathologist, etc.)

**Pick-up and Drop-Off**

* Pick-up and drop-off of children will occur outside the preschool building unless there is a need for the parent/caregiver to enter the setting (e.g., a very young child). If a parent/caregiver 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.
* Daily health check at drop-off 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/caregiver with verbal consent.