

**A SAFE RETURN TO CARE:
ENHANCED POLICIES, PROCEDURES AND PROCESSES**



Infectious Disease (COVID-19) Policy

Date: Revised September 1, 2022

SCREENING FOR SYMPTOMS PRIOR TO ADMISSION TO CENTRE / PROGRAM

Prior to arrival at the program site each day, every staff member and parent/guardian (on behalf of their child), should complete the provincial self-screen each day and stay home if feeling unwell. The Provincial Self-Screening and Decision Tool can be found at:

<https://covid-19.ontario.ca/school-screening/>

ENHANCED SANITARY PRACTICES

All high touch areas must be sanitized using a high level disinfectant wipe and/or spray sanitizing solution at least twice a day for full day programs and a least once in the morning and once in the afternoon for school age program. If any area is visibly soiled, it must be cleaned with soap and water prior to being sanitized.

HAND HYGIENE

Staff will implement a strict heightened hand washing practice in order to minimize the spread of germs and contamination. Hand washing must be done using soap and running water, whenever possible, or when hands are visibly soiled. When soap and running water are not available, an alcohol based hand sanitizer may be used.

In situations where a chemical hand sanitizer must be used, staff members must remain in possession of the container at all times to ensure that it is dispensed according to the manufacturer's instructions. Alcohol-based hand sanitizers must be stored in cabinets or areas away from children. Hand sanitizer cannot replace hand washing for those involved in the preparation of lunch or snacks

MASKING

Although masks are no longer required for children, staff, providers and visitors, we strongly encourage children and staff to wear masks while participating in indoor activities in our centres / programs. We know that masking continues to be an effective way to disrupt the transmission of the virus and is recommended by our local public health units. Mask will continue to be provided to students and staff. We promote respectful, welcoming and inclusive environments for individuals who choose to wear, or not to wear a mask.

MONITORING FOR SYMPTOMS

Staff must continuously monitor the children and themselves for possible symptoms of COVID-19 throughout the day. Symptoms may range from mild, flu-like symptoms to severe. A daily health check will be completed as the children arrive to the after school program.

ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN WHEN SYMPTOMS ARE DISPLAYED

If a child exhibits any COVID-like symptoms, while participating in program activities and these symptoms are not related to a known cause or condition, they will be separated from the rest of the group and placed in a designated isolation room/area, away from other children and staff.

The parent/guardian will immediately be contacted to make arrangements for the child to be picked up as soon as possible.

The incident will be recorded in the child's records.