

COVID 19 procedures for Thrive Out of School Care.

(This document has been updated Sept. 28th as the Province changes policies and procedures)

BC CDC has changed the regulations for BC schools and childcare centers around the COVID 19 health check criteria of children and staff.

Daily personal health checks for children done by parents or staff self-evaluations have changed, and no longer include the common cold symptoms of a runny or stuffy nose, sore throat, general aches or pains or rash when not accompanied by fever or other COVID 19 symptoms.

The health check now includes only the following symptoms requiring a break in attendance for COVID reasons.

1. Fever, Chills, Cough or worsening of chronic cough, Breathing difficulties (breathing fast or working hard to breathe), Loss of sense of smell or taste, Diarrhea, Nausea and vomiting.
2. International Travel: Have you returned from travel outside Canada in the last 14 days?
3. Confirmed Contact: Have you been a confirmed contact of a person that has been confirmed to have COVID-19?

This basically means a child or staff with only a mild sore throat, clear runny nose, non-contagious skin condition etc can be in attendance and does not need to self isolate. So with that in mind they can remain in childcare and school unless you say yes to questions 1-3.

However, as usual children and staff should also stay home if displaying symptoms of any regular contagious condition such as pink eye, colds/flu accompanied by green/yellow mucus, communicable rash like pinworm etc.

For more information on the COVID health checks please feel free to sift through information at the link below.

<http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/childcare-schools/child-care>

Symptoms that require a child to stay home or be picked up immediately if developed at the center are a temperature of 99 F / 37.2 C or higher (under the arm) cough, and difficulty breathing.

If a child becomes sick or presents symptoms while at Thrive they will be separated from the other children in a quiet supervised rest spot and parents will be required to pick up immediately. Touchpoints of that child will be sanitized and the room will be ventilated.

Sanitization of high touch surfaces: High touch surfaces will be sanitized before, during and after each program day. For a minimum of three times in a 4-hour program. Sanitization records are kept on file for audit.

Format, policies & procedures for after school care 2020 during COVID - 19 precautions.

After School Care format will be considerably different than prior years. As much as possible the following will be practiced:

Parents Sign in/out: Parents are not to enter the indoor program spaces. Sign in/out stations will be outside or in hallways etc to prevent parents from being in the program spaces with the children. If your child needs help packing up in their indoor program spaces a staff will assist rather than a parent entering the space. Staff desire to speak with parents at the end of days, but please respect the six-foot social distancing expectations while doing so.

Transportation from School: Students being bussed/vanned by Thrive will have assigned seats that remain the same every day. Sibling groups will be seated together. The bus will be sanitized after the school pick-ups before being used again for any out trip by other students. Windows will be partially open to allow continual airflow. Hands will be sanitized upon entry and exit of the bus/van if immediate handwashing is not available.

Washrooms: Groups/rooms will use the washrooms at designated times and the washrooms will be sanitized between-group uses and when deemed necessary if multiple individual uses occur between groups.

Hand washing: Children and staff will wash hands upon entering the building, before and after eating, or handling food, and after using the washroom and sanitize before leaving for home. Hand sanitizer will be used on out-trips before and after playground use.

Personal Belongings: Do not allow your child to bring toys, trading cards or other personal belongings from home other than necessary clothing, food and drink and requested items for a particular activity (like a bike/ helmet or lifejacket). Personal belongings like coats and backpacks will be required to be correctly placed on the child's hook or designated spot.

Outdoor Program: Explain to your children that in order to help with social distancing and to be breathing in fresh clean air as much as possible, that all recreational and free time activities will be outdoors unless there are heavy rains or other unsafe weather conditions. As winter approaches we will redirect to some limited indoor options.

Social Distancing: We will be encouraging social distancing when inside as much as possible and logical in a play-based setting. Staff will be helping kids throughout the day by calling out "space spin" everyone will stretch out their hands and move far enough away as to not be able to touch another outstretched hand. Activities and rooms will be set up to support social distancing. **Hands-on behaviour will not be tolerated and children will be sent home early for recurring offences.**

Snacks and water: Send an after school snack, and a refillable water bottle labelled with their name. It is important to note we are not allowing use of Thrive cups or spare water bottles right now so it is essential that your child has their water bottle every day.

Out Trips: Thrives program motto is EXPLORE DISCOVER THRIVE. We believe kids are happier, healthier and smarter when interacting with nature - more so now than ever before. Therefore we are often on out-trips to natural parks and forest areas. Because of this, we will continue to transport for out-trips with sanitization before and after each trip, and windows slightly open. In order to have the benefit of a full outdoor experience, it is important that your child is picked up no earlier than 5:00 pm on after school out-trip days. Out-trips return by 5:00 pm or will be noted on your calendar if it's later. If you are wanting to pick up early or won't be in attendance that day, it is your responsibility to notify staff before 1 pm that day. When Staff are notified, they will be able to keep your child at the centre so they don't go on the out-trip. Let your room leader know if there will be recurring constant days that you will pick up early.

Communication: Please stay in communication with us! The staff will be doing their best to have open and invited communication with parents. Please first speak to your child's group/room leader about any concerns or questions and follow that their

manager/ director if you still feel unheard. If you feel that a concern is not being heard by staff and managers on-site, please do not hesitate to call us at the support office. We continue to train and mentor our young staff through the ever-changing policies and procedures of childcare during COVID. Your feedback is always valuable.

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