

New or clarified COVID 19 protocols for licensed childcare.

Based on BC CDC UPDATE Dec 2021

Please note that licensed childcare outside of the school building is subject to different regulations than school and licensed child care within a school building.

Daily health check - see poster attached.

Daily health checks are required with attention given to upgrade assessments on when to stay home and get tested. At Thrive Staff and volunteers are still required to sign the health check each day and children/families are required to do a health check before school and or full-day Thrive programs but still do not need to sign off or record this.

- If the staff or children (or their parents) indicates that the symptoms are consistent with a previously diagnosed health condition and are not unusual for that individual, they can continue to attend child care settings. No assessment or note is required from a health-care provider.

Physical distancing

Child care settings have enough space to support physical distancing. There is no need to reduce the number of children attending care at any given time.

Adults should practice physical distancing whenever possible.

- When **interacting with adults**, staff and other adults should reduce close, prolonged, face-to-face interactions. If physical distance can't be maintained, a mask should be worn.
- When **interacting with children**, staff and other adults should minimize unnecessary physical contact. Adults may choose to wear a mask when interacting closely with children, recognizing the importance of facial expressions and movements on children's learning and development.

Children are not expected to practice physical distancing. Contact between children is important to their emotional, physical and developmental needs. Child care settings should seek to reduce physical contact between children by:

- Using all of the space available
- Organizing more activities that encourage individual play
- Encouraging children to keep their hands to themselves

Outdoors and ventilation- *Thrive will continue to make it their best effort to have children outside as much as possible. Doors or windows will open in buildings and vehicles when weather permits. Please ensure your child has warm outdoor clothing and footwear every day. Children will be outdoors even in sub-zero weather when safe to do so.*

Masks

ALL CHILDREN AND STAFF and other adults should wear a mask when indoors except when:

- Eating and drinking
- Have a medical exemption

Immunization - is not currently mandated in childcare for children or staff. However, those (children and staff, who may not be vaccinated may be given stricter isolation mandates from the health authority in the event of an exposure. For example, we have seen unvaccinated made to isolate, while vaccinated asked only to monitor.

Visitors

- **All adult visitors should wear a mask when in the childcare setting**

If Thrive parents enter a building for sign-out you are required as usual to stay at the door and not enter the childcare room/space. Please wear a mask when in the building even just at the door. Please wait outside to avoid multiple parents signing out at one time. Limit pick up to one parent and ensure your sign out initial clear for pick up verification and also covid sign in.

Sanitization will continue as before, sanitizing before the children arrive, and at least once during a full day of care, as well as the busses and vans

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

In the event of exposure

the children or staff identity is kept confidential by the health authority and they only notify us of exposure in the center. Sometimes they will tell us what group. It is helpful for parents to tell us if their child does test positive. This way we know what group they were in and can prevent the whole center from being asked to isolate. The health authority determines the level of risk based on random factors and sends Thrive a letter to forward to parents saying either monitor or isolate. If asked to isolate the health authority will also contact each family directly by phone with instructions.

If a child from the center tests positive and the parent lets us know we will keep it confidential. When notifying families we say “ a person” we try not to even indicate if it was an adult or child for privacy’s sake.