

# New COVID 19 protocols for licensed childcare.

Based on BC CDC UPDATE March 2022

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**

*Although testing is no longer required or available to most, staff and parents should regularly check to ensure that they (or their child) are not experiencing any symptoms of illness (including but not limited to COVID-19 symptoms) before coming to child care to prevent spread of communicable diseases, such as COVID-19, within the child care settings.*

**What to do when sick :** *Staff, children, or other persons in the child care setting who are exhibiting symptoms of illness (including but not limited to COVID-19 symptoms) should stay home until they are well enough to participate in regular activities. Staff, children, or other persons can attend child care if their symptoms are consistent with a previously diagnosed health condition (e.g., seasonal allergies) or symptoms have improved enough to where you feel well enough to return to regular activities and their fever has resolved without the use of fever-reducing medication (e.g. acetaminophen, ibuprofen).*

## **When to test, taken from CDC BC March 2022**

- *Similar to the approach to testing for other diseases, testing for COVID-19 is recommended when a positive or negative result will inform decisions about treatment or care. This includes people who have symptoms of COVID-19 and*
  - *are currently hospitalized (any age)*
  - *are pregnant*
  - *are at risk of more severe disease and [currently eligible for treatment](#)*
  - *live or work in settings with others who are high-risk for severe illness*
- *If you have mild symptoms of COVID-19, you do not need a test. Stay home and away from others until you feel well enough to return to your regular activities and you no longer have a fever.*
- *Mild symptoms are symptoms that can be managed at home.*
- ***If you do not have symptoms of COVID-19, you do not need a test.***

*Staff, children, or other persons in the child care setting who test positive for COVID-19 should follow the guidance on the BCCDC website*

*<http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/if-you-have-covid-19#testedpositive> as to how long they should self-isolate. They can return to child care when they no longer need to self-isolate.*

## **Physical distancing**

Physical distancing is not required even within adults. However at Thrive we continue to utilize small group activities, big spaces and outdoors to avoid crowding and congested play areas as much as possible.

Children are still required to follow the hands off rule. Please assist your child in understanding that hands on play whether aggressive or not, is not welcome at Thrive due to many health and safety reasons.

**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.

**Masks-** Masks are optional for children, staff and visitors. Masks may be worn based on personal choice.

**Respiratory Etiquette** Children and staff should practice routine respiratory etiquette: Cough or sneeze into their elbow sleeve or a tissue. Throw away used tissues and immediately perform hand hygiene ("Cover your coughs"). Not touch their eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands ("Hands below your shoulders").

**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.

**Sanitization** will continue as before, sanitizing high touch surfaces before the children arrive, and at least once during a full day of care and when visibly dirty.

**Busses and vans** - Thrive will continue to encourage open windows and regular sanitization routines.

**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 and when getting on and off the bus.

**Events and parents and visitors** We are looking forward to once again welcoming parents into the childcare space at pick up and getting to know your smiling faces without masks. We look forward to once again being able to host family events helping us get to know each other as well as welcoming back volunteers and guest presenters! Here is to let's get back to normal socialization!

For information on covid related details in childcare centers see the link below

[http://www.bccdc.ca/Health-Info-Site/Documents/COVID\\_public\\_guidance/Guidance\\_Child\\_Care.pdf](http://www.bccdc.ca/Health-Info-Site/Documents/COVID_public_guidance/Guidance_Child_Care.pdf)