

New or clarified COVID 19 protocols for licensed childcare.

Based on BC CDC UPDATE Feb 12, 2021

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

Daily health check - see poster attached.

Daily health checks are required with attention given to upgraded 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 parent) 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

Non-medical masks and face coverings (masks) provide some protection to the wearer and to those around them. Children may wear a mask based on personal or family choice. Infants under two years of age should not wear masks as it may make it difficult for them to breathe. Child care staff should supervise and support children to ensure safe and proper use if masks are worn.

Staff and other adults should wear a mask when indoors and **interacting with other adults** except when:

- They can consistently maintain physical distance, or
- There is a barrier in place, or
- Eating and drinking

Masks may only provide limited protective value for adult-child interactions in child care settings, as there are multiple effective health and safety measures in place and young children are less likely to be infected. Child care staff and other adults may choose to wear a mask indoors when engaging in prolonged, close **interaction with children**. Careful consideration should be given to the potential impact of mask-wearing on visual cueing and non-verbal communication with children, as these interactions play an important role in learning and development.

At Thrive we will prioritize the need for children to see staff faces, facial expressions and mouth movements to assist children in hearing and listening. Therefore will not be mandating wearing masks indoors except when social distancing with other adults is not possible. Staff may choose to wear masks for their own comfort if desired. Staff are encouraged to wear masks when approaching parents even if social distancing is maintained. Masks will be worn in vehicles.

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 and after Thrive, and at least once during Thrive after school and between-group use of bathrooms and busses.

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.

You can access the full BC CDC childcare regulations for covid here:

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

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