

Work Safe BC Safety Plan

Our top priority is to keep the staff and children of Caledonia Early care and learning centre as safe as possible while at the centre. The number of children attending will be reduced as well as the staff in the centre. All staff have been consulted in this policy.

Based on the current epidemiology of COVID-19 in B.C., and the fact that children are at a much lower risk of developing COVID-19, child care providers are being encouraged to remain open or re-open, while supporting the health and safety of children and adults. As a Child care service we will adapt as much as possible to implement public health and infection prevention and control measures, including staying home when ill, physical distancing, minimized physical contact, hand hygiene, frequent cleaning and disinfection.

We have updated our health and safety policies so that children or staff that show any signs of the common cold, flu or COVID 19 remain at home.

COVID 19 and Children

COVID-19 virus has a very low infection rate in children. In B.C., less than 1% of children and youth tested have been COVID-19 positive. Most children are not at high risk for COVID-19 infection.

Children and youth typically have much milder symptoms of COVID-19 most often presenting with low-grade fever and a dry cough. GI symptoms are more common over the course of disease, while skin changes and lesions, are less common.

Many children have asymptomatic disease. However, there is no conclusive evidence that children who are asymptomatic pose a risk to other children or to adults.

Evidence indicates transmission involving children is primarily limited to household settings, and from COVID-19 positive adults to children. Most cases in children have been linked to a symptomatic household member.

Clusters and outbreaks involving children and youth are unusual and tend only to occur in areas where there are high levels of community spread.

Children are not the primary drivers of COVID-19 spread in child care facilities, schools or in community settings.

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COVID 19 and Adults

While COVID-19 impacts adults more than children, some adults with specific health circumstances are at an increased risk for more severe outcomes, including individuals:

- Aged 65 and over,
- With compromised immune systems, or
- With underlying medical conditions.

All staff and children will follow our health and Wellness policy.

Hand Washing and Hygiene

Hand sanitizer has been placed in the entryway, all staff, parents and children must use hand sanitizer before ringing the doorbell and /or entering the childcare centre.

All staff must then wash their hands once they are in the centre before they start work or children play.

Staff must wash their hands though out the day including the following:

- When they arrive at the workplace and before they go home.
- Before and after handling food (raw, cooked or pre-packaged), preparing bottles or feeding children
- Before and after giving or applying medication or ointment to a child or self
- After changing diapers
- After assisting a child to use the toilet
- After using the toilet
- After contact with body fluids (e.g., runny noses, spit, vomit, blood)
- Before donning and after doffing personal protective equipment
- After cleaning tasks
- After handling garbage
- Whenever hands are visibly dirty
- Staff must support children to wash their hands regularly throughout the day, including:
 - When they arrive at the workplace and before they go home
 - Before and after eating and drinking
 - After a diaper change
 - After using the toilet
 - After playing outside
 - After handling pets and animals
 - After sneezing or coughing
 - Whenever hands are visibly dirty

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Education and direction will be provided to workers and children to:

- Cough or sneeze into their elbow sleeve or a tissue.
- Throw away used tissues and immediately perform hand hygiene.
- Not touch their eyes, nose or mouth with unwashed hands.

Health and Wellness Policy

Our health and wellness policy continues to apply during a pandemic or communicable disease outbreak. However, additional restrictions may apply, based on government / licensing officer directives. This may include, but is not limited to, requesting parents to have their child(ren) tested for the disease before returning to daycare and extending our required at-home “symptom free” time period following any symptoms or requiring children with symptoms - *even if they are feeling well and have plenty of energy* - to remain at home. Any temporary changes to our health and wellness policy during a pandemic/outbreak will be communicated in writing, via Storypark and/or e-mail.

Children and child care providers should stay at home when new symptoms of illness develop, such as:

- Fever (100F/37.8C or higher)
- Chills
- Cough
- Difficulty breathing (in small children, this can look like breathing fast or working hard to breathe)
- Loss of sense of smell or taste
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

For mild symptoms without fever, children and staff members should stay home and monitor symptoms for 24 hours. If symptoms improve and the child/staff member feels well enough, they can return to the child care facility without further assessment or doctor’s note. If

symptoms include fever or difficulty breathing, or if symptoms last for more than 24 hours or get worse, seek a health assessment by calling 8-1-1 or a primary care provider. If a COVID-19 test is recommended as a result of the health assessment, self-isolate while waiting for results. If the test is positive, self-isolate and seek direction from a health professional. If the test is negative, return to daycare when there are no more symptoms and return when feeling well enough to participate.

If you are unsure, call 8-1-1 for advice. See the BCCDC website for more information on when to seek emergency care. If a COVID-19 test is not recommended, staff and children may return when well enough to participate and they no longer have symptoms.

Additionally, our regular health and wellness policy stands:

Children may not attend childcare programs while they have any of the following symptoms:

- unusual, unexplained loss of appetite, fatigue, irritability, or headache
- eye infections
- unexplained rashes *or* any rash that is not confirmed by doctor to be non-contagious known or suspected communicable diseases (measles, chicken pox, pink eye, hand foot and mouth, etc.)
- ear infection
- nausea, vomiting and/or diarrhea in the last 48 hours
- severe cough
- Runny nose with or without sneezing.

Showing Symptoms of Illness at Daycare

If a child shows symptoms of what could be influenza or COVID-19, we will contact the child's parent to pick up immediately. The Observation Booth will be used as an isolation area away from the other children and staff while the child is waiting to be picked up. An educator will stay with the child until picked up. A thorough cleaning of the booth will be done once the child is picked up. If a staff member shows symptoms, he/she will be sent home immediately. We will ensure we are overstaffed in the event of a staff member needing to leave. If we will be

short staffed and cannot meet educator to child ratio for Community Care licensing, due to unforeseen illness circumstances, we may be required to close early.

We will continue to follow the recommendations of the BC health Minister.

The following people will be UNABLE TO COME to the childcare centre;

- People returning from any international travel (including from the United States).
- Sick people waiting for a test or test result for COVID-19.
- People with COVID-19.
- People who have been in close contact with COVID-19 cases during the period of isolation.
- People who have not travelled, but who develop flu-like symptoms (fever, cough, tiredness, aches or severe tiredness).

When Staff Get Sick

- Staff will be directed to stay home if they are feeling unwell.
- If staff develop symptoms during their work day, they must leave the premises as quickly as possible. If immediate departure is not possible, they must self-isolate in an appropriate location away from other children and staff. Environmental cleaning will be performed upon the departure of the staff member.
- Staff who are away sick, or self-isolated or self-monitoring, must follow the facility's health and wellness policy on being away from work.
- If a staff who attended a child care centre, or their family member, is being investigated by public health to confirm whether they have COVID-19, or if public health has confirmed a case of COVID-19, direction will be provided by regional health authority nurses.

Children and staff that are sick may return to daycare if they have been tested for COVID-19 and received a negative result and have no symptoms, or after 14 days if they no longer have symptoms.

Staff that are working from home may be called in to work if staff are sick. Staff that are not in the high risk health category will be called first.

Use of Masks and Gloves (updated Nov 23, 2020)

All parents, siblings over 2 and visitors will be asked to wear a mask when dropping off and picking up their children. Masks and gloves have not been recommended for children at this time at daycare as they can be irritating and may lead to increased touching of the face and spreading of more germs. At this time children are thought to be of low risk of contracting and spreading COVID 19.

Masks will be wore by staff to greet parents or visitors at drop off and pick up.

Masks must be wore if in the college outside of the daycare centre, including when walking to the back yard.

Masks will be worn by staff in the classroom, hallway, staff room, napping room anytime that more than one staff is present.

There will only be one staff at the snack table at a time so the mask may be removed for eating and drinking. At the lunch table if more than one staff is present at the table they must make sure they are at least 6 feet apart.

Masks are not required outside but staff must stay at least 6 feet apart.

Gloves will be continued to be worn by staff during children's toileting and bodily fluid clean-up.

Additional Cleaning

In the event of a pandemic or communicable disease outbreak, Caledonia Early Care and Learning Centre, while in operation, will follow additional cleaning measures. This includes:

- Using a Ministry of Health-approved sanitizing solution within the program more frequently during the day, to sanitize the facility and all equipment. Sanizing will be done at opening, after morning playtime, after lunch, when children go outside in the afternoon and at the end of the day. More cleaning will be done as required.
- There will be a reduction in toys provided in the classroom. Toys provided will be easily washable and sanitized after every use and at the end of every day. Toys that are not

easily washed between children's use, such as playdough or art materials, each child will be given their own supply for their use only.

- Increasing handwashing and using social stories and direct teacher instruction with children to promote healthy handwashing habits.
- Parents and all visitors will be asked to wash their hands if they need to enter the daycare. Any person entering the entryway will be instructed to use hand sanitizer (provided) before ringing the doorbell.

Social Distancing

While social distancing is challenging in a childcare setting, we will do what we can to assist children to understand this concept by playing games, reading social stories, having one child per activity table, and going outside more often. Regular activities such as art, fine motor, circle time and snack time will be taken outside when weather permits. Visual cues will be placed around the classroom.

- Staff will try as social distance from other staff as much as possible.
- The number of children attending the daycare will be reduced to allow for social distancing in the classroom.
- Children will be placed in smaller groups when possible.
- Children will walk (with no partner), accompanied by educator(s), if going to various outdoor parts of the college. A walking rope will be used to help children maintain a distance from each other while walking. The walking rope will be sanitized after every use. If a child requires support while walking, an educator will walk beside. It may be necessary to hold a child's hand, for the safety of the child. Staff will wash their hands or use sanitizer once they let go of the child hand.
- Children will be spaced at appropriate physical distance, for snack/lunch times, circle times, and story times. Staff will also distance themselves away from the children as much as they are able, during these activities.
- If a child is struggling to distance from others, educators will follow our guidance policy to help the child. This may include reminding the child the reasons for distancing,

redirecting to other activities, and/or removal from the play area to de-escalate before returning.

- Where possible, we will limit close greetings such as hugs and handshakes.
- At rest time each child will be placed in a different area of the room and spread out as much as possible. Cardboard will be placed around sleeping children in the sleeping room.
- Staff will not be required to do any food preparation. Parents will be required to provide a healthy snack for their child.
- Unnecessary visitors, i.e. volunteers and resource people, will be limited or prohibited while social distancing is being recommended by the health minister.

There will only be one staff and two child in the children's bathroom at a time.

Only one staff will be in the staffroom at a time.

Pickups and Drop Offs

- Child(ren) are to be dropped in the foyer where an educator will meet the parent to bring their child(ren) into the classroom and help them with their morning jobs. Masks will be wore by parents and staff at the entry door.
- Only one parent permitted inside the foyer with one educator at a time. Parents will have to wait outside of the main entrance if there is already a parent in the foyer dropping off.
- Parents are to sanitize their hands with the provided hand sanitizer before ringing the bell.
- Child(ren)'s belonging must be brought in a backpack, lunch bag and water bottle will be sent home every day. The back pack will stay until Friday. Belongings in the backpack should include spare clothes, lunch kit, water bottle, outdoor clothing and napping blanket/stuffy (if child still naps).Spare clothes will be kept at daycare in a sealed Ziploc bag. Napping blanket will be kept at daycare and sent home every Friday for washing.

- Parents must pack their child(ren)'s lunch in containers that can be easily washed and sanitized. Two snacks are also required to be packed and labelled as snacks.
- If required in the mornings, parents must apply sunscreen prior to coming to daycare.
- Parents are requested to model social distancing during drop offs and pickups. One parent only inside the foyer entrance for drop off and at pick up only one parent at the gate or entrance at a time.
- One staff will be allocated to meet each child as they arrive.
- The staff will take the child straight to the bathroom to wash hands before the child does any of his other jobs. The staff member will also wash her hands.
- The staff member will also re wash her hands or use hand sanitizer before meeting the next child.
- Parents will pick up their children and their backpack outdoors in the front yard weather permitting)
- If pickups will be indoors, due to unfavorable weather, one parent will be let into the foyer at a time, where an educator will be meet them with their child(ren) and backpacks.
- Children's and parents' hands will be sanitized before leaving the centre at pickup.
- If another authorized person will be picking up and/or dropping off, the parent(s) are requested to let the person know of this pandemic pickup/drop off procedure.

Support Workers

- A support worker will only attend the centre if the child they are supporting is present at the childcare centre.
- Support workers must follow all policies and procedures of the centre, as well as the policies and procedures of Supported Child Development.
- Support workers will only work with the child/children they are supporting.
- Each new support worker that attends must read the child(ren)'s support plan, and the health and safety policies of the centre.

- If challenging behaviors, such as biting and spitting, is experienced, sanitize affected areas and wash/sanitize any affected body part.
- A support worker may inform the manager that the child may be required to leave the centre if he/she is struggling with social distancing and unable to de-escalate challenging behaviours.
- As stated in our parent contract if a support worker is unavailable, a child needing support may be unable to attend the childcare centre.
- The support worker is responsible for cleaning all toys and supplies used by their child after use.

Custodians

- The custodian will be given extra training surrounding the extra cleaning and sanitizing that is required.
- The Custodian must come in to clean the centre after 5:15pm, when all educators and families have left. The custodian cannot arrive before the start time of their shift.
- The last educator at the centre will talk with the custodian, within social distancing, if there is extra cleaning to be done.
- The Custodian is considered a staff member and must comply with the centre's sickness policy listed above. If custodian is sick, educators will clean the daycare.

Individual Exclusions

In the event that the Ministry of Health provides a regional or provincial quarantine recommendation for individuals, be it due to international travel, linked to potential exposures, or linked to individual symptoms, we will require all families and children to comply with this recommendation. These exclusions will apply equally to all children, families, and employees.

Authorized Sources of Information

A pandemic or localized communicable disease outbreak is subject to governance by official sources: our childcare licensing officers, the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Children and

Families, and the federal government. While we appreciate that social media and news sources provide an extensive amount of information, we will respond to official, authorized sources of information only.

A Non-biased and Inclusive Approach

Fear-based responses in times of pandemic or communicable disease, have historically led to actions stemming from bias and self-protective measures. Not only can these measures lead to conflict between parents, childcare educators, and community members, but they can also lead to actions rooted in racism. Caledonia Early Care and Learning Centre has an inclusive-based approach and works to be a safe space for all families and children. We will not tolerate acts of racism or bigotry towards any parent, child, employee, or community member. Any such acts may be subject to an immediate dismissal from our program.

If staff feel unsafe

If any staff feel anxiety, fear or feel unsafe at work, it can be discussed at the staff meeting (Health and safety component) so it can be discussed and changes made as necessary, or for immediate attention the staff can talk to the manager.