

## **COVID-19 SAFETY PLAN – VICTORIA CHILDREN’S CENTRE**

*Physical distancing and minimizing physical contact:*

**Avoid close contact/greeting** – Keeping in mind that we care for infants/toddlers, we will be having physical contact in the context of receiving the child at drop off as well as providing reassuring comfort and hugs, holding, carrying, lifting, diapering, feeding and general care and hygiene, and emotional support. This is unavoidable given the age of the children in our care. We will **strive to minimize the number of different caregiving staff that interacts with the same children throughout the day** (as per our primary caregiving model this is already in place).

**Organize children into smaller groups and/or spread children out** to minimize direct physical contact amongst the children.

**Continue to stagger meal times** as per individual needs, and one-one feedings.

**Minimize the number of additional adults**, gradual entry will be done outside or in a separate space when new parent is present. Prospective families (visitors) will be greeted outside and only have a quick look from yard or front hallway if deemed necessary.

*Pick up and drop off:*

**Pick up and drop off of the children will occur either outside or inside the front hallway only** one parent and child at a time, greeted and signed in by a designated caregiving staff.

Parents will observe posted signs, disinfect footwear and use hand sanitizer for self and child, food items will be handed to staff and will be cleaned and stored by staff.

One parent at a time, others **must wait** by designated distance measures.

Caregiving staff will take child to hand washing station to wash child and own hands at sink before joining playroom if inside.

**Pick up will happen in reverse**

**PARENTS, CHILDREN, OR STAFF MEMBERS THAT ARE SYMPTOMATIC MUST NOT ENTER THE FACILITY**

*Daily Checks for Respiratory Illness and Staying Home When Sick:*

**Parents must** assess their child daily for symptoms of common cold, influenza, COVID-19, or other infectious respiratory disease before sending them to child care.

**Caregiving staff will communicate at drop off and confirm that the child does not have any of these symptoms or any other health issues needing to be addressed.**

Appendix B. Protocol for child or staff with symptoms of COVID-19 in a child care setting

Child with Symptoms of COVID-19	Staff with Symptoms of COVID-19
<b>IF CHILD DEVELOPS SYMPTOMS AT HOME:</b>	<b>IF STAFF DEVELOPS SYMPTOMS AT HOME:</b>
<p><b>Parents or caregivers must keep their child at home</b></p> <p>until they have been assessed by a health care provider to exclude COVID-19 or other infectious diseases, AND their symptoms have resolved.</p>	<p><b>Staff must be excluded from work, stay home and self-isolate</b> for a minimum of 10 days from the onset of symptoms AND until all symptoms resolve, whichever is longer.</p>
<b>IF CHILD DEVELOPS SYMPTOMS WHILE AT CHILD CARE:</b>	<b>IF STAFF DEVELOPS SYMPTOMS WHILE AT WORK:</b>
<p><b>Staff must take the following steps:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Identify a staff member to supervise the child.</li> <li>2. Identified staff member should immediately separate the symptomatic child from others in a supervised area until they can go home.</li> <li>3. Contact the child’s parent or caregiver to pick them up right away.</li> <li>4. Where possible, maintain a distance of 2 metres from the ill child. If this is not possible, the staff member may use a mask if available and tolerated, or use a tissue to cover their nose and mouth.</li> <li>5. Provide the child with tissues, and support as necessary so they can practice respiratory hygiene.</li> </ol>	<p><b>Staff should go home right away where possible.</b></p> <p>If unable to leave immediately, the symptomatic staff person should:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Separate themselves into an area away from others.</li> <li>2. Maintain a distance of 2 metres from others.</li> <li>3. Use a tissue or mask to cover their nose and mouth while they wait for a replacement or to be picked up.</li> <li>4. Remaining staff must clean and disinfect the space where staff was separated and any areas used by them (e.g., office, bathroom, common areas).</li> <li>5. If concerned, contact 8-1-1 or the local public health unit to seek further advice.</li> </ol>

6. Open outside doors and windows to increase air circulation in the area.
7. Avoid touching the child's body fluids. If you do, wash your hands.
8. Once the child is picked up, wash your hands.
9. Clean and disinfect the space where the child was separated and any areas used by the child (e.g., bathroom, common areas).
10. If concerned, contact 8-1-1 or the local public health unit to seek further advice.

**Parents or caregivers must pick up their child promptly once notified that their child is ill.**

***If a child or staff member is assessed by their family physician or nurse practitioner and it is determined that they do NOT have COVID-19, they may return to child care once symptoms resolve.***

#### *Hand hygiene:*

Caregiving staff will perform **proper hand hygiene** for self and children at all times as set out in the guidelines.

All staff members are diligent and educated in proper hand hygiene as well as **respiratory etiquette**.

**No food or drink** or any other personal items will be shared amongst the children.

**Disposable gloves** will be worn when dealing with any and all bodily fluids – followed by proper hand hygiene. **Disposable wipes only** at diaper changes.

#### *Distancing procedures:*

Time **outdoors** will be increased as much as possible. Outdoor space can be divided into two areas if needed. Some meals might be served outside.

**Indoor** area has two separate play spaces, children will be guided to play/engage in designated areas as appropriate with designated caregiving staff.

**Other areas** – Kitchen/food prep area – Bathroom/diaper change area – Staff room/office area will be limited to one staff person at a time. Staff will practise physical distancing amongst each other and observe strict hand hygiene and cleaning protocols at all times.

**Direct care**, all usual hygiene protocols will be observed at diaper changes. During feed times care giving staff will use cloth barriers between self and child (receiving blanket), and again when/if helped to settle for nap.

Our children sleep in designated cribs (never shared), in a separate room.

Our care will continue to be provided in a respectful, trusting, and gentle caring manner.

**The children will engage with one another throughout the day.** Caregiving staff will respectfully to the best of their ability, limit the number of children playing together at one time, and gently discourage personal exploration and toy sharing when appropriate in order to minimize close contact.

#### *Cleaning protocols:*

Our full on **daily deep clean** cleaning process of our play rooms and change facility, walls, shelving, equipment including all toys washed and exchanged will continue as always, during the 10 – 11 am time period. **Additionally**, we will clean/disinfect all other frequently touched areas and surfaces, door handles and more when identified, on a rotating basis throughout the day (prior to opening, at noon and again by closing).

**Fine motor toys/smaller items** and chew toys will be removed and/or exchanged and washed prior to “sharing” and all gross motor equipment will be washed at the end of the day before storing.

#### ***Disclaimer:***

Victoria Children’s Centre recognizes that our licensed space is deemed adequate for physical distancing at full capacity by the health authority, providing regulated staff/child ratio is met. Victoria Children’s Centre will continue to assess the ability to safely care for the children while observing additional measures required during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and increase attendance accordingly as we move forward.

