



October – 2020

## **Cefa North Vancouver COVID-19 – Safety Protocol**

### **Introduction & Background:**

COVID-19 virus has a very low infection rate in children. As of mid-May In B.C., less than 1% of children and youth tested have been COVID-19 positive. Children under 1 year of age and older children with immune suppression and medical complexity are considered more vulnerable and at higher risk for illness (visit the BCCDC Priority Populations page for further details).

For most of the population, including children and healthy adults, disease symptoms are relatively mild. For these people, the symptoms are similar to a common cold. If we look at cases around the world involving young children, this disease does not seem to cause as severe symptoms for children. Some Children do not have any symptoms at all. It is different than Influenza which can cause quite severe disease in young children and results in hospitalizations and some deaths across North America every year.

Parents are encouraged to consult with their health care provider to determine if their child should attend child care if they are uncertain. 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.

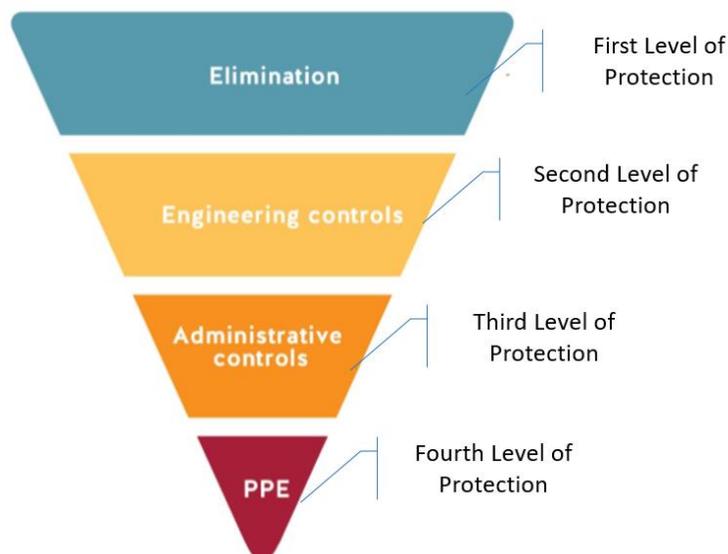
Evidence indicates transmission involving children is primarily limited to household settings, and from COVID-19 positive adults to children. Most cases in children have been linked to a symptomatic household member. Children are not the primary drivers of COVID-19 spread in child care facilities, schools or in community settings

The health and safety of our children and our Early Childhood Educators (Staff) is of paramount importance to us. With this premise underpinning our decision to remain open, we implemented these operational procedures that we require all of our families and Staff to follow.

We are monitoring the situation on a daily basis and will adjust as necessary and based on additional direction expected from the Ministry and/or Vancouver Coastal Health. Note that we will continue with our food program and our hours of operation are currently open 8:30am-5:15pm. As the situation evolves we will inform our families of any change in this or any other regards.

### Protocol & Guidelines:

Our Safety Protocol aligns with the four levels of protection schema as published WorksafeBC. And includes recommendations from the British Columbia Centre for Disease Control and the BC Ministry of Health.



**First Level of Protection - Elimination:** Limit the number of people on site and ensure physical distance whenever possible.

- No adults other than staff are allowed within the school premises during hours of operation.
- We have deactivated our fob system. Families will be welcomed by our staff at the entry door and only children will be allowed in the school. No parents or companions will be allowed in.
- One parent or guardian will be allowed to accompany their child for the first two days of the gradual entry process. All staff and guardians will wear a mask during this time both inside the classroom and outside on the playground.
- Staff will wear a mask when accompanying a student to the door for pick up/ drop off.
- We ask that only one adult accompanies a child when in the hallway for drop off
- Parents are asked to line up for drop off and kindly wait until the child ahead is welcomed and his/her parents have moved away from the main door
- Signs have been placed in the hallway for parents to line up spacing each other a min 2 mts
- Upon arrival every person will be tested for high temperature at the entry door using a touchless forehead thermometer and a daily health check will be conducted during drop off.
- Sign-in and sing-out will be done by our staff via Hi Mama (touchless for families)
- All parents, children and staff who have symptoms of COVID-19 OR travelled outside Canada in the last 14 days OR were identified by Public Health as a close contact of a confirmed case must stay home and self-isolate
- Children or staff who have been in close contact with someone who has been diagnosed with COVID-19 are asked to stay home for 14 days after their last encounter. Individuals should monitor themselves daily for symptoms including fever, cough, shortness of breath and sore throat.
- Parents must assess their child daily for symptoms of common cold, influenza, COVID-19, or other infectious respiratory disease before sending them for child care.

- Parents will be verbally asked at the time of drop off to respond yes/no if their child does not have symptoms of common cold, influenza, COVID-19, or other respiratory disease
- Because children with COVID-19 are expected to have mild-symptoms, if you or any of your children exhibit any respiratory illness (including colds) you must stay home and self-isolate for 10 days from symptom onset. This means your child will need to show absolutely no signs of any illness in order to attend care. It is about minimizing exposure at this time.
- If unsure whether a member in your family should self-isolate, please use the BC COVID-19 Self-Assessment Tool at <https://bc.thrive.health/covid19/en>, contact 8-1-1 or the local public health unit. You should also contact a family physician or nurse practitioner to be assessed for COVID-19 and other respiratory diseases.
- While we experience a reduced number of children attending to the school, we will implement a higher spacing among children’s bedding setting at nap time (for children napping in the school).

### **Second level protection** - Engineering: Scheduling, barriers, and partitions

- Our playground is enclosed from external parties and locked for the exclusive use of the children.
- Our schedule allows for often outside time including playing and learning activities
- Our playground is fully outdoors with no ceiling which ensures adequate ventilation and fresh air

### **Third level protection** - Administrative: Rules and guidelines

- This protocol and guidelines is to be made available to all our staff as well as all our families as the children come back to the School.

#### Hand Washing:

- We will require regular and proper handwashing for both children and staff while in indoors as well as outdoors activities. If your child presents any allergies to soap (i.e. dry hands) please advise your child’s teacher as soon as you notice any symptoms
- Staff and children must periodically wash their hands with soap and following the guidelines for proper handwashing (i.e. wash hands with plain soap and water for at least 20 seconds (sing the “ABC’s” or “Twinkle Twinkle Little Star”). Note that antibacterial soap is not needed for COVID-19.
- For clarity, hand washing should occur at a minimum:

#### Children

- When they arrive at the School and before they go home
- Before and after eating and drinking
- After a diaper change
- After using the toilet
- After playing outside
- After sneezing or coughing
- Whenever hands are visibly dirty

#### Staff

- When they arrive at the School and before they go home
- Before and after handling food
- 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)
- After cleaning tasks
- After removing gloves
- After handling garbage
- Whenever hands are visibly dirty

- Hand Sanitizers are distributed around the School and in the main entrance for use when immediate handwashing is not possible. Note that if hands are visibly soiled, alcohol-based hand sanitizers may not be effective at eliminating respiratory viruses. Soap and water are preferred when hands are visibly dirty.
- Signs for proper hand washing are visible by the children sinks

Coughing:

- Staff and children are thought and instructed to follow proper procedures to cover coughs and sneezes. For clarity; 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”).
- We don’t recommend that children wear cloth or homemade masks.

Cleaning and Disinfecting:

- Our teachers will perform regularly through the day (min. twice a day) enhanced cleaning and disinfecting of frequently-touched surfaces in line with typical practices during an outbreak of respiratory illness (examples include door knobs, tables, faucets, etc.) using common, commercial-available detergents and disinfectant products.
- Frequently-touched surfaces of the structures in our playground will also be regularly cleaned and disinfected through the day
- We have secured the services of a cleaning company which will perform a full disinfecting of the school daily.
- We have removed toys and other items that cannot be easily cleaned (e.g., avoid plush/stuffed toys).
- Garbage containers are removed from the premises daily.
- Disposable gloves must be disposed immediately after cleaning blood or body fluids (e.g., runny nose, vomit, stool, urine).
- Wash hands before wearing and after removing gloves.
- If parents are providing their own crib linen, the linens should be laundered and placed in a sealed plastic or washable bag before bringing to the School.
- Teachers will clean and disinfect diapering stations after each use.

Distancing:

- Staff is instructed to maintain physical distancing from one another as much as possible
- Children and staff are not to share food, drinks, soothers, bottles, sippy cups, and other personal items.
- When food is served our staff is ensuring that each child has their own individual meal or snack.
- We are adjusting our daily schedule to allow longer outdoor time in our rooftop playground. We’ve also prohibited community walks and field trips for the time being.
- Staff should minimize the frequency of direct physical contact with children and encourage children to minimize physical contact with each other. To this end the following guidelines must be followed:
  - Avoid close greetings (e.g., hugs, handshakes).
  - Regularly remind children to keep “Hands to yourself”.
  - Strive to minimize the number of different staff that interact with the same children throughout the day.
  - Organize children into smaller groups and/or spread children out to minimize direct physical contact.
  - Use different room configurations (e.g., separating tables).
  - Incorporate more individual activities or activities that encourage more space between children and staff.
  - We’ve made plans for further spacing during activities and meal times as well
  - Remove toys that encourage group play in close proximity or increase the likelihood of physical contact.
  - Keep toys that encourage individual play.

- Consider using books, individual games, video and online programs as a part of learning so children can sit independently and distanced from each other.

**If symptoms:**

- Children or staff with any respiratory illness and/or cold-like symptoms will not be allowed in the school.
- If a child starts showing symptoms while at school, he/she will be promptly separated from others into a supervised area until their parent can come to pick him/her up
- If a child or Staff is found to be a confirmed case of COVID-19, the School will collaborate with public health staff to ensure there is robust contact tracing and management of any clusters or outbreaks. They will also ensure that children, staff, and parents have access to health care providers and that appropriate supports are in place.

**Fourth level protection:** Personal Protective Equipment (optional measures in addition to other control measures)

- Our School has enough handwashing facilities on site for all our children and Staff. Handwashing locations are visible and easily accessed.
- We have secured a safe supply of gloves, masks and full-face visors
- The use of gloves by our teachers is mandatory while performing activities with children. Masks are available for teachers who desire to wear them while not presenting any symptoms
- Full face covering visors are also available for all and every teacher which can be used in combination with the masks.
- Parents, please remember that in young children in particular, masks can be irritating and may lead to increased touching of the face and eyes.

More information is available at:

WorksafeBC – Childcare Protocols for returning to operation

[https://www.worksafebc.com/en/about-us/covid-19-updates/covid-19-returning-safe-operation/child-care?fbclid=IwAR2c6VuW3RUM-N0OxS7F6lrcvpyprn4XYq1OQo7mawwMQaWuTBIEA\\_QPDEk](https://www.worksafebc.com/en/about-us/covid-19-updates/covid-19-returning-safe-operation/child-care?fbclid=IwAR2c6VuW3RUM-N0OxS7F6lrcvpyprn4XYq1OQo7mawwMQaWuTBIEA_QPDEk)

BCCDC Public Health Guidance for Child Care Setting

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

## Appendix A

**Daily Health Check Resource**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of child: \_\_\_\_\_

- 1) Is your child ill with any of the following new key symptoms?

Fever

Chills

Cough or worsening of chronic  
coughBreathing difficulties (breathing  
fast or working hard to breathe)

Loss of sense of smell or taste

Diarrhea

Nausea and vomiting

 Yes       No

- 2) Has your child, or anyone in your household, had close contact with someone who is a confirmed to have COVID-19 virus?
- 
- Yes
- 
- No

- 3) Has your child travelled to any countries outside of Canada, including the US (United States), within the last 14 days?
- 
- Yes
- 
- No

**If you answered “YES” to two or more of the questions included under ‘Key Symptoms of Illness’, or you have a fever or difficulty breathing, seek a health assessment.** A health assessment includes calling 8-1-1, or a primary care provider like a physician or nurse practitioner. If a health assessment is required, you should not return to the childcare setting until COVID-19 has been excluded and your symptoms have improved.

**If you answered “YES” to only one of the questions included under ‘Key Symptoms of Illness’ (excluding fever and difficulty breathing), you should stay home for 24 hours from when the symptom started.** If the symptom improves, you may return to a childcare facility when you feel well enough. If the symptom persists or worsens, seek a health assessment. A health assessment includes calling 8-1-1, or a primary care provider like a physician or nurse practitioner.

**If you answered “YES” to questions 2 or 3, use the COVID-19 Self-Assessment Tool to determine if you should seek testing for COVID-19.**

If a COVID-19 test is recommended as a result of the health assessment, self-isolate while waiting for results (see information on how results are provided here).

**If the COVID-19 test is positive**, self-isolate and follow the direction of public health.

**If the COVID-19 test is negative**, return to the childcare facility once well enough to participate.

**If a COVID-19 test is recommended but not done**, self-isolate for 10 days after the onset of symptoms and return when you or the child are well enough to participate.

If a COVID-19 test is not recommended, staff or children may return when well enough to participate.

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Child Care Staff Signature: \_\_\_\_\_