



Pandemic Policy

Due to the Novel Coronavirus known as Covid-19, the following Pandemic Policy is in place and will temporarily supersede any contradicting information in the Illness Policy in Section 11.

1. Pandemic Policy Statement

Per Worksafe BC and the BCCDC Childcare Guidelines, staff, children, parents, and caregivers **must not enter the** centre if they have symptoms of COVID-19 (below) or have travelled outside of Canada in the last 14 days or have been identified by public health as a close contact of a person with a confirmed case of COVID-19.

- Fever
- Chills
- Cough
- Difficulty breathing
- Loss of sense of smell or taste
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

1.1. Closures & Ratios

Childcare programs in British Columbia are licensed and regulated through the Ministry of Health, childcare licensing. As a result, Cream of the Crop Childcare may be directed by a childcare licensing officer to close operations during a pandemic or other communicable disease outbreak. Cream of the Crop Childcare will follow all directives provided from the Ministry of Health. The legal authority to close a childcare program for public health reasons falls under the purview of the local Medical Health Officer and the Provincial Health Officer and their decision overrules any decision to stay open that an individual childcare centre owner, or parent, may wish to make.

Childcare ratios are required during operation, even during a pandemic. In the event that employees are unable to come into work or are in a quarantine and ratio is not able to be met, Cream of the crop may need to have reduced operational hours or rotating days off between children. This decision would be made as a last resort in order to avoid a full closure, and would be communicated with parents in writing, via email.

We urge all our families to plan ahead for alternate care arrangements should we be forced to close, or if your child or a family member is ill and they need to be isolated at home. Moreover, it is required by law that parents or their alternate be reachable should their child need to be picked up in an emergency. We will do our best to be as accommodating and flexible as possible and keep everyone informed in a timely fashion.



1.2. Programme Amendments

Effective immediately, the following services will be temporarily suspended:

- Tooth brushing (Phase 1-3)
- Hot lunch (Phase 1-3)
- Music Class with Ms. Deb is available in Phase 3 and onwards

1.3. Health Check and When to Return to the Centre

Our health and wellness policy per our Parent Handbook continues to apply during a pandemic however, additional restrictions apply, based on government / licensing officer directives. Per the BCCDC Public Health Guidance for Child Care Setting parents and guardians are required to perform a daily health check prior to attending the centre.

The following is an example of a daily health check to determine if you or your child should attend a child care setting that day. **Remember, if you think your child is ill, please keep them at home.**

Daily Health Check

1. Key Symptoms of Illness	Do you have any of the following new key symptoms?	CIRCLE ONE	
Fever	YES	NO	
Chills	YES	NO	
Cough or worsening of chronic cough	YES	NO	
Breathing difficulties (breathing fast or working hard to breathe)	YES	NO	
Loss of sense of smell or taste	YES	NO	
Diarrhea	YES	NO	
Nausea and vomiting	YES	NO	
2. International Travel	Have you returned from travel outside Canada in the last 14 days?	YES	NO
3. Confirmed Contact	Are you a confirmed contact of a person confirmed to have COVID-19?	YES	NO



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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 and call your childcare provider. 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 childcare until COVID-19 has been excluded and your symptoms have improved. Your teachers will work with you to determine an appropriate back to school date.

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 be able to return after consulting your teachers. 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. [B.C. COVID-19 Self-Assessment Tool](#)

If a COVID-19 test is recommended as a result of the health assessment, **self-isolate** per Government Guidelines while waiting for results.

- **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 child care facility once well enough to participate and you have the go-ahead from your teachers.
- **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 and after checking in with their teachers.

Please remember: If any member of the child’s household is symptomatic, we also require your child stay home until the household member has been assess by a heath care provider to exclude COVID-19 or other infections diseases and has been symptom free for 24hours.

In order to participate in our programming, it is mandatory that our clients and staff follow all Government recommendations pertaining to Covid-19. This includes social distancing, staying at home when possible etc. Due to the seriousness of Covid-19, failure to do this may lead to termination of your contract with Cream of the Crop Childcare.



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1.4. Safety & Sanitation Protocols

Daily: Please dress your child in clean clothes (ie., don't reuse sweaters etc) on days they are attending the centre. Those with long hair should be tied back to help discourage touching their face. Please wash outerwear, backpacks and lunch kits regularly as well as any comfort items/toys (ie. cars, stuffies). Inside shoes will be kept at the centre and we will routinely wash/disinfect them.

New Drop Off/Pick Up Procedures:

- Only two families drop off permitted at one time in order to maintain social distancing. Please stay at least 2m apart or wear your mask while in the centre (adults only). We ask the other families to wait outside and be 6ft apart.
- When you arrive, please ring the doorbell. Staff will unlock the door, back up to observe social distancing and waive you in.
- Your child will be asked to immediately go into the kitchen with the teacher to be supervised to properly wash hands as soon as you have said goodbye (hugs etc).
- Please immediately sanitize your hands either using our gel sanitizer, or if you prefer you may use our kitchen sink and wash for 20 seconds. Parents who do not sanitize their hands either with soap/water or sanitizer may not enter the centre.
- Parents will sign in/out
- Teachers will wipe down backpacks, lunch kits and any other personal items as necessary.
- Once a parent has left, staff will sanitize pens, counter & the door handle and doorbell behind them.

Distancing Practice

- Please note for younger children physical distancing is less practical and the focus will be on minimizing physical contact instead. No hugging, touching one another or hand shaking. Teachers will be frequently reminding them to keep their hands to themselves. Teachers will be mindful of keeping distance from the children and each other when practical. If necessary to assist with changing, comforting, etc, teachers will wash hands after contact.
- We will remind and assist your child to wash hands a minimum 20 seconds. Handwashing will take place upon arrival, before eating, before going outside and upon return to the school, before the need to touch the face, after coughing or sneezing into hands, after using the toilet, after handling common resources/equipment/supplies or pet, whenever hands are visibly dirty and, upon departure.



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- We will remind your child to not to touch their face (nose, eyes, mouth)

School-Age Protocols

With the opening of schools this Fall, Cream of the Crop has added the following procedures:

- The included illness policies apply; if your child has symptoms, even mild ones, please keep them home and call the centre.
- As it is not possible to maintain social distancing (minimum of 6ft apart) in the school-age room, school-aged children and their teacher will be required to wear a clean mask while inside the centre.
- School aged children will be restricted to their room other than use of the washroom.
- Masks will not be needed when outdoors. Teachers will try to maximize as much outdoor play as is possible.
- Before boarding the van, the children and the teacher will sanitize their hands, put on a clean mask by the ear loops and then board. Masks need to be worn at all times in the van as it is not possible to maintain social distance.
- Children will be assigned seating in the van and siblings/families will be asked to sit together.

1.5. Additional Sanitation Procedures Used in Centre

In addition to our rigorous cleaning schedules, Cream of the Crop disinfects all high traffic areas at least twice a day (light switches, door handles etc) and some surfaces after each use (eg. Cots for napping children, tables, sign in pens, front door handles etc).

Dramatic Play Area

We are allowing costumes in dramatic play but are only allowing them one wear per child. Once worn they immediately go into the wash.

Park Transportation Protocol

- Children wash hands
- Are provided clean mittens/gloves (fall only) and clean pinnies
- Hold clean walk rope
- In warm months, teachers will sanitize the play park equipment with an aerosol spray (Eg. Lysol) which dries shortly after contact, before allowing kids access to park equipment.
- Children play at park after safety check is completed



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- In Summer when no gloves are worn, children will have their hands sanitized immediately after finishing on play equipment.
- After returning to centre, gloves, pinnies and rope are put in the laundry.
- Children wash hands

Air Circulation

- Every evening, the centre uses an ozone machine in the afterschool room and main room to kill any airborne viruses and bacteria.
- HVAV systems are kept in good repair and in the "fan" mode as often as possible
- The centre doors are opened while the children are at the park to bring in fresh air.

1.6. Fees during pandemic / communicable disease closures

In the event of a short-term closure due to a pandemic or communicable disease outbreak (less than 30 days), fees are due and payable as per usual operations. Fees payable during closures exceeding 30 days will be determined on a case by case basis.

Fee reductions such as the CCFRI or ACCB are provided through MCFD, and may or may not be provided during required pandemic or communicable disease closures. Parents may directly contact the MCFD office at 1 888 338-6622, to discuss MCFD's policy regarding CCFRI or ACCB payments; this decision is outside of Cream of the Crop's authority.

While the TEF (Temporary Emergency Funding) is available through the Government, parents who withdraw their child temporarily due to Covid-19 will have their spot held at no charge. Further, if we are ordered by the Government to give first priority to Front Line workers in a 3-tiered system, we will adhere to Government instructions as they apply.

If a child or family must self-isolate for 10 days, we will do our best to provide lieu days as is possible. This is not a guarantee but is a courtesy we will do our best to extend.

1.7. 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, Cream of the Crop will require all families and children to comply with this recommendation. In the event this occurs, the Ministry of Health will provide our childcare program with written information; this recommendation will be shared directly with families. These exclusions will apply equally to all children, families and employees.



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1.8. 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.

1.9. A non-biased, 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. Cream of the Crop Childcare 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.

1.10. Covid19

- Information about COVID-19, including advice and guidance to schools, is regularly updated on the BC Centre for Disease Control site. Information on Covid2019 and current recommendations from the health authority are found here: <http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19>
- Cream of the Crop has created its Pandemic Policy based on the COVID-19 Public Health Guidance for Child Care Setting. The latest version can be found at [COVID-19 Public Health Guidance for Child Care Settings](#)
- Non-medical information about COVID-19 is available 7:30am-8pm, 7 days a week at 1-888-COVID19 (1-888-268-4319).
- Anyone with [symptoms](#), even mild ones, can get tested for COVID-19. Use the [B.C. COVID-19 Self-Assessment Tool](#) to help determine if you need testing for COVID-19. You can complete this assessment for yourself, or on behalf of someone else, if they are unable to.
- To learn more about COVID-19 testing and find a collection to be tested, go to the [Testing page](#).