

SEC Child Care

Parent Handbook Addendum - Guidelines for COVID-19

SEC Child Care Guidelines for COVID-19 are approved by the Ministry of Education Child Care and Early Years Licensing Branch and local Public Health Units, and follow the most current recommendations provided by the Ministry of Health. SEC has trained all staff to implement the following measures that will reduce the spread of COVID-19 and other infectious illness within the program. These guidelines are subject to change as per the direction of the Ministry of Education Child Care and Early Years Licensing Branch and local Public Health Units.

How You as a Parent Can Help

- If your child has signs and symptoms of illness, especially a fever of 37.8 degrees Celsius (100 degrees Fahrenheit) or higher, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, keep them home they cannot attend childcare.
- Provide us with any changes to your contact information, emergency contacts, or your child's medical information (e.g. allergies)

If a Child Becomes Ill at the Centre during Program

In the event that a child shows any signs or symptoms of illness, other than what can be explained (e.g. teething, seasonal allergies), the parent will be called to immediately pick-up their child. If the parent is not available by phone, the emergency contact will be called. While the child waits to be picked-up, they will be supervised by staff member. The staff will wear a medial mask, face shield/goggles, gown and gloves, and children over the age of 2 years who can tolerate a mask will be asked to wear one. Current Public Health requirements for testing and next step instructions will be followed.

If a Staff Becomes Ill at the Centre

If a staff member becomes ill with COVID-19 related symptoms at the program, they will be sent home immediately. Current Public Health requirements for testing and next step instructions will be followed.

Use of Masks

All children and adults in a child care setting (i.e., childcare staff and placement students) are encouraged to wear medical masks while inside in the childcare premises, including in hallways.

Currently SEC masking policy is requiring all staff to continue to wear medical masks when working indoors. This will be reviewed and adjusted based on the emerging situation as required to meet current needs.

Cleaning & Disinfecting

SEC has implemented enhanced cleaning and disinfecting measures to help reduce the spread of infectious illness. A schedule of the frequency of cleaning and disinfecting is required by Public Health.

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Personal Hygiene

Staff and children follow a routine of hand washing with soap and water throughout the day. For example, we wash our hands when we arrive at the centre, after using the washroom, before and after eating, after playing outdoors, after using a tissue, and any time hands are visibly soiled. Staff schedule hand washing routines into the day and demonstrate how to wash hands and monitor children while they wash their hands.

When running water is not available, for example outdoors, children over the age of 2 years can use hand sanitizer. Staff monitor children using hand sanitizer to ensure it is applied properly.

Staff will demonstrate for children how to cough and sneeze into the arm or shoulder. Anytime a child uses a tissue they are taught to discard the tissue in a garbage bin, and to wash their hands.

As much as possible staff will remind children to avoid touching their face, eyes, nose and mouth.