



Precious Seeds Montessori House

Montessori & Forest Programs

COVID-19 Health Policy: Preschool Program

Please review the following health and safety measures we are taking to protect children and staff and minimizing the impact of infection and illness.

Drop Off & Pick Up Procedure

- Please wash hands IMMEDIATELY upon entry. We will place 2 hand washing stations at the gate for children and parents to wash hands.
- Drop off and pick up will happen at the door.
- Only 1 parent in the cubby at the time, if necessary. Please maintain physical distancing.
- Teachers will greet children with a contactless wave or bow instead of the usual “Montessori handshake” and will ask you to confirm you have done a Health Check. Please see “Health Check Example” on page 4.
- We have planned staggered drop off and pick up times.

Masks

- The use of masks is not recommended for children. In young children in particular, masks can be irritating and may lead to increased touching of the face and eyes.
- All adults (i.e. staff, parents, grandparents) are required to wear a mask when interacting with each other, if physical distancing is not able to be maintained at all time.

Staff Health Policy & Contingency Plan if Staff Ill

- We have an extra staff person in case a staff member becomes ill.

New Routines to Reduce Group Size and Increase Physical Space

- Our health officials recognize that physical distancing is not practical or reasonable for preschool-age children.
- We will do our best indirectly incorporate these practices in the following ways:
 - o Increase outside time, where we have more space. (In July, August, and September we will operate outside nearly the whole class time.)
 - o Rearrange workspaces inside to promote physical distancing.
 - o Place seat markers during group activities to promote physical distancing.
 - o Play games, read books, and sing songs that encourage best practices.
- There will be NO sharing snack or food preparation activities.
- Water bottles and lunch bags will remain in backpacks when not in use.

Handwashing

- Proper handwashing is key and will be modelled and reinforced daily in a fun and relaxed way. We have posted handwashing posters around the facility as a reminder for everyone!
- Children will be expected to wash their hands...
 - o Immediately when they arrive at the preschool – parents please supervise to ensure proper handwashing
 - o When they go home – parents please supervise to ensure proper handwashing
 - o Before eating and drinking – teachers please supervise to ensure proper handwashing
 - o After using the washroom – teachers please supervise to ensure proper handwashing
 - o After sneezing or coughing into hands - teachers please supervise to ensure proper handwashing
 - o Whenever hands are visibly dirty - teachers please supervise to ensure proper handwashing

- 6 steps to proper handwashing:
 1. Wet hands with warm running water.
 2. Apply a small amount of soap.
 3. Rub hands together for at least 20 seconds (sing your favourite song).
 4. Rinse off all the soap with running water.
 5. Dry hands with a paper towel.
 6. Discard used paper towel in waste container.

NOTE: Hand sanitizer will be available at the entry handwashing stations, not in the classroom. Please supervise your child's use of the sanitizer, if you choose to use this option during your entry and exit handwashing routine.

Cough and Sneeze Etiquette

- We will teach children to cough or sneeze into their arm ("cough pocket") 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").

Managing Illness in the Child Care Setting

COVID-19 Key symptoms:

- Fever
- Chills
- Cough or worsening of chronic cough
- Breathing difficulties (breathing fast or working hard to breathe)
- Loss of sense of smell or taste
- Diarrhea
- Nausea and vomiting

If a child or staff member starts showing key symptoms of what could be COVID-19 or influenza, we will:

- Contact the parent or caregiver to come pick them up right away. (Please ensure we have up to date contact numbers for you and your emergency contacts.)
- Separate the child with a staff member in a separate room until their parent or caregiver can come pick them up. Both staff and child will be asked to wear mask while they wait to be picked up. Please pack a mask in your child's bag in case it is needed.
- Ensure staff that show symptoms mask then go home right away.
- Continue to practice good handwashing and respiratory hygiene.
- Do a thorough clean of space once the child has been picked up.

Cleaning and Disinfectant Supplies & Routine

- We clean with botanical thymol-based disinfectants.
- We will increase our regular cleaning and disinfecting of objects and high-touch surfaces and record on our daily cleaning log.

Withdrawal and Absence

In case of withdrawal from school, parents are required to give one full calendar month written notice of the withdrawal from the program. Absence due to illness or holidays are not exempt from payment.

Daily Health Check Example

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?

- 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

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 child care 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 child care 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.

- 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.
- 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.

A health-care provider note (i.e., a doctor's note) should not be required to confirm the health status of any individual.