



Precious Seeds Montessori House Montessori & Forest Programs

COVID-19 Health Policy: Elementary Forest/Farm & Farm 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 maintain physical distancing.
- Please wash or sanitize hands IMMEDIATELY upon dropping off and picking up.
- Please send any items your child needs for the day ALL INSIDE a backpack or bag.
- 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.
- 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.

Masks

- If you feel more comfortable, your child may wear a mask.
- Please send your child with a mask in case we need to use in areas where it is more challenging to physical distance.
- 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 may have to reschedule a class if staff is not well.

New Routines to Reduce Group Size and Increase Physical Space

- We will do our best to incorporate physical distancing practices in the following ways:
 - o Be outdoors more (CHECK! 😊)
 - o Plan activities that encourage more space between children to promote physical distancing.
- 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/sanitizing is key and will be modelled and reinforced daily in a fun and relaxed way.
- Children will be expected to wash their hands...
 - o Before eating and drinking
 - o After using the washroom
 - o After sneezing or coughing into hands
- 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.

Cough and Sneeze Etiquette

- We will teach children to cough or sneeze into their arm (“cough pocket”) or a tissue.

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:

- o 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 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 environmentally-friendly, thymol-based disinfectants.
- We will increase our regular cleaning and disinfecting of objects and high-touch surfaces.

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.
- If we cancel a program day due to COVID-19, we will either offer a make-up class before the end of the program year or refund your fees.

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.