

January 13th, 2022

Staff Communicable Disease Prevention Policy

As we navigate forward, we have streamlined our policy for families and have moved to a combined Illness and Communicable Disease Prevention Plan, contained in the Parent Handbook. **Additional restrictions and/or guidelines may apply, based on government / licensing officer directives.** Any changes to our *Communicable Disease Prevention Plan* will be communicated in writing.

Proof of vaccination is NOT required for school staff or visitors. Inquiring about someone's vaccination status is not permitted.

Mini Miracles, while in operation, will follow additional measures to ensure the health and safety of our children, their families and our staff.

These include:

1. If you're ill – stay at home

Staying home when sick is one of the most important ways to reduce the spread of illness. When communicable disease is present in community, the risk of introducing disease is reduced if staff, students and others:

- Stay home when sick
- If staff, children or other adults have any symptoms of cold, flu or cough - Get assessed by calling 811 or completing the BC Self-Assessment Tool

***Prior to drop off, families must assess their child for any illness symptoms and staff may ask questions at or after drop off if child appears to have symptoms.

***Staff are required to complete a daily Health check when they arrive at work and follow outlined guidance, provided by Public Health.

2. Symptoms at Childcare

- a. Contact the child's parent or caregiver to come and pick them up right away.
- b. Childcare staff will promptly separate the child with symptoms, to a distance of at least two meters from others and maintain adequate supervision until they are picked up.
- c. Any rooms they have been in while symptomatic will be cleaned and disinfected before others enter them.
- d. Any staff showing symptoms will wear a mask, until they can go home, which will be as soon as coverage is available.

***** When children are sent home, staff will provide families with a list of the symptoms that have been observed. Families must follow up with an assessment from 811 or BC Self-Assessment Tool, to receive instruction on how to proceed.**

3. Promote good hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette

*** Soap and water are the preferred method of hand washing; however, sanitizer will also be used.

- a. Children in the program will clean their hands
 - i. Before leaving home and on arrival at school
 - ii. After using the toilet or having diapers changed
 - iii. After breaks, sporting activities, and/or outdoor play
 - iv. Before and after eating any food, including snacks & drinking
 - v. After sneezing or coughing
 - vi. Whenever hands are visibly dirty
 - vii. Before leaving school

- b. Child care staff will wash hands
 - i. When they arrive at the centre and before they go home
 - ii. Before handling food, preparing bottles or feeding children
 - iii. Between handling raw and cooked food to avoid cross contamination
 - iv. Before and after giving or applying medication or ointment to a child or self
 - v. After changing diapers, assisting a child to use the toilet, using the toilet
 - vi. After using the toilet
 - vii. After contact with body fluids (running noses, spit, vomit, blood)
 - viii. After cleaning tasks
 - ix. Before and after wearing gloves
 - x. After handling garbage
 - xi. Whenever hands are visibly dirty

Six steps to proper handwashing:

1. Wet hands with warm running water.
2. Apply a small amount of liquid soap. Antibacterial soap is not required.
3. Rub hands together for at least 20 seconds (sing the ABC's). Rub palms, back of hands, between fingers and under nails and creating a lather.
4. Rinse off all soap with running water.
5. Dry hands with a clean, disposable towel.
6. Discard towel in the waste container.

c. Respiratory etiquette

Includes covering the mouth and nose during coughing or sneezing with a tissue or a flexed elbow and disposing the used tissues in a plastic-lined waste container, followed by good hand hygiene.

4. Cleaning and disinfecting

- a. Regular cleaning and disinfecting of objects and high-touch surfaces will help prevent the transmission of viruses.
 - General cleaning will occur once a day – floors, bathrooms
 - Cleaning of high touch areas will occur at least twice a day (door knobs, toilet flushers, light switches, tables etc.)
 - Toys will be rotated and sanitized daily or after being mouthed
 - b. Toys will be used that are easily cleaned and disinfected.
 - c. Empty garbage containers daily or as needed.
 - d. Cleaning products are being used that are approved by BCCDC's Cleaning and Disinfecting for Public Spaces document (http://www.bccdc.ca/Health-Info-Site/Documents/CleaningDisinfecting_PublicSettings.pdf) or by making a mixture of 1-part household bleach and 9 parts water.
 - e. Cribs and mats will be cleaned weekly or between children
 - f. Diaper stations will be sanitized after each use
- **Cleaning and disinfecting will be recorded on Communicable Disease Prevention Checklists.

5. Personal Protective Equipment

- a. Adults and students in K-12 should wear a mask, at all times, when indoors and when interacting with other adults and children except when:
 - i. there is a barrier in place, or
 - ii. eating and drinking, or
 - iii. during outside play time
 - iv. have a mask exemption

*** While masks are highly recommended in the Early Learning Program, there are times when the developmental well-being of children who are 3-5 years old, must be taken into account. Children must be able to read facial expressions as this affects social/emotional and language development. Masks do not need to be worn when staff are interacting with children in a socially distanced way, such as during circle time and when able to maintain a 2m between children and other staff. Masks also do not need to be worn when sitting at a table and engaged in eating and drinking.

Masks are not needed when urgent actions are required to support child safety.

In common areas of the school, used by Mini Miracles and St. John Paul II staff, masks will be worn.

- b. Gloves will be worn by the staff when cleaning blood or bodily fluids (e.g. vomit, stool, urine, runny nose, etc.)

6. Pick Up and Drop Offs

- a. Should occur outside, and we encourage masks to be worn as we can not guarantee physical distancing of 2 meters between adults.

- b. Should there be a need for a parent to enter the building, they are required to wash hands, wear a mask, and complete a Daily Health Check.
- c. People who are symptomatic will not be permitted to enter the building.
- d. Infant and Toddler families should enter through the stairs at the back of the building and Daycare families will use the ramp, unless families require ramp access. The ramp should be used only one way at a time.
- e. Staff will sign children in and out on the daily attendance.

*** Families of the Out of School Care program will be permitted to pick up their children indoors, using the daycare entrance and stairwell. – Families must be healthy, sanitize and wear a mask to enter the premises. They are also responsible for signing their child out.

7. Additional Adults/ Visitors

- a. Public entry to the school is limited to staff, children and others approved by administration.
- b. Community professionals will have access to observe children. They will be required to wash hands, wear a mask, and complete a Daily Health Check.
- c. Volunteers and practicum students will wear a mask for their first two weeks in the program. Then they will follow part 5 “Personal Protective Equipment” guidelines.

Mini Miracles staff will report to our local Medical Health Officer if we have any commutable Health outbreaks.

- a. Please visit www.bccdb.ca/contact for Medical Health officer contact information for each Health Authority

Consent to these guidelines is implied by your child’s continued attendance in our programs. Thank you for your cooperation during this time.

Documents used to update Commutable Disease Plan:

1. COVID-19 Public Health Guidance for Child Care Settings
http://www.bccdc.ca/Health-Info-Site/Documents/COVID_public_guidance/Guidance_Child_Care.pdf
2. NEW: COVID-19 Addendum Communicable Disease Prevention Guidance for K-12 School Settings
<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/education/administration/kindergarten-to-grade-12/safe-caring-orderly/k-12-covid-19-health-safety-guidelines-addendum.pdf>
3. COVID-19 Public Health Guidance for K-12 School Settings
http://www.bccdc.ca/Health-Info-Site/Documents/COVID_public_guidance/Guidance-k-12-schools.pdf

NEW: Addendum http://www.bccdc.ca/Health-Info-Site/Documents/COVID_public_guidance/Addendum_K-12Guidance_12292021.pdf

4. BCCDC Symptoms of COVID-19
<http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/about-covid-19/symptoms>

Sincerely,

Janna Walker
 Mini Miracles Manager

Rachelle Warman
 St. John Paul II Principal

Appendix A - Illness and Communicable Disease Prevention Policy

While we are sensitive to the stress that illness may cause for families, we are not licensed to care for children when they are ill. If the staff believes a child is sick and should not attend, the facility retains the right to refuse admittance. If a child becomes ill during the course of the program, the parent(s) will be contacted to pick the child up. If your child has any symptoms, they must stay home for 24 hours and can return to the program if symptoms have resolved and your child can fully participate in programming.

Children who show any symptoms of cold, flu or communicable disease must stay home until their symptoms are resolved and be assessed by Public Health (811) or complete the BC Self-Assessment Tool prior to attending childcare. If children are sent home from childcare, families will be given a list of the observed symptoms.

You will need to keep your child at home, or make alternate arrangements, if your child:

- has a communicable disease.
- any symptom of cough, cold or flu
- is within the first 24 hours of antibiotics. During the first 24 hours of antibiotics your child must remain at home to make sure there are no adverse reactions to the antibiotics and to prevent the spreading of the illness to peers. After 24 hours the medication has an opportunity to work and unless your doctor tells you otherwise, your child may return to the child-care centre.
- has a contagious infection, including pink eye (conjunctivitis).
- is vomiting or has had diarrhea **within the last 24 hours**.
- has an undiagnosed skin infection or rash;
- is not well enough to participate in all program activities including outdoor play.
- has a runny nose with any coloured mucus (only a clear runny nose may be accepted).
- clear runny nose that needs to be wiped more than twice in an hour or that the child is using their body or clothing to wipe their nose.



- temperature over 100 F or 37.8 C.

Please ensure that your child has been **fever free for at least 24 hours, without the use of medication** before bringing them to childcare.

Please notify Mini Miracles Family Centre staff of medications administered before bringing your child to their program. In case of emergencies, we need to provide medical personal with any medications that are in the child's system.

Please notify Mini Miracles Family Centre staff if your child has a communicable disease so that the other families and the Island Health Authority-Community Health Services can be made aware of and limit the potential for of outbreak.

Please be aware that in the case of an illness outbreak, where multiple children and families are affected, our policy of needing to be symptom free for 24 hours will be extended to 48 hours. You will be notified by letter, phone call and/or email.

What to do if you have symptoms that may be COVID-19

- Use the B.C. [COVID-19 Self-Assessment Tool](#) to see if you need to be tested for COVID-19.
- See the BCCDC page on COVID-19 [Testing](#) for more information.
- Once you have been tested you should [self-isolate](#) while you wait for the test results.
- If your test is negative you should not return to work or school until you are feeling better.
- If you feel unwell and are unsure about your symptoms, contact your health care provider or call 8-1-1.