

COVID Safety Plan for Queen's Park Preschool: Aug 2020

Queen's Park Preschool is committed to maintaining a safe and healthy environment for our children and staff, while ensuring a quality play-based program. This COVID Safety Plan is additional protocols besides QPP's existing policies.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we developed new safety policies and procedures that will be distributed to our families and displayed in the preschool. This is a working document and will be updated throughout the year. This Safety Plan is based on BC Centre for Disease Control / BC Ministry Health protocols and other sources.

What is COVID-19?

COVID-19 is a respiratory infection that is transmitted through person to person contact. The virus that causes COVID-19 spreads in several ways, including through droplets when a person coughs or sneezes, and from touching a contaminated surface and then touching the face. Higher risk situations require adequate protocols to address the risk. The risk of COVID-19 depends on the amount of virus circulating in the community, which changes from place to place and over time. Community transmission is monitored by public health authorities in British Columbia.

Based on the current epidemiology of COVID-19 in B.C., and the fact that children are at a much lower risk of developing COVID-19, child care providers are encouraged to remain or re-open.

Before coming to preschool:

- It is encouraged to self assess before you arrive at the preschool. All families should familiarize themselves with QPP illness policy and COVID Safety Plan. <https://bc.thrive.health/covid19/en>

Arrivals and departures of children:

- Upon arrival at the preschool, the family will line-up outside the gate with 2m social distancing.
- A teacher will be signing the child in, and ask the COVID-19 Health questions and screening (see attached questions), before allowing the child inside. If the answer is yes to any of the questions, the child will have to go home until their symptoms have resolved.

- Children will be encouraged to say goodbye at the gate.
- Another staff member will help the child to change to inside shoes at the cubbies and wash hands.
- When a child needs comfort to settle into the program, educators will assist the child and parent/guardian. If needed, the family will be welcomed to enter and assist their child.

Conditions:

- Only one family member per child will enter
 - The family and the child must wash their hands first upon entry
 - The family member will be required to wear a mask
- At the end of class, the family members will line up outside the gate with 2m social distancing, and the teachers will dismiss the children to their families one by one.

Entry to Preschool:

- Any adults entering preschool premises during preschool hours will be logged in by staff.
- All individuals must wash hands with soap and water upon entering preschool premises.
- Adults will be required to wear a mask. Masks will be available for adults who do not have their own.
- Only staff and children attending will be allowed inside the building. Other adults will be admitted on a case by case basis - E.g. Supported Child Development consultants and preschool executive committee members.
- Parents will drop-off children at the outside gate and the child will be signed in by the teacher.
- All meetings will be held on Zoom or phone, outside in the yard, or if not possible inside with masks and social distancing.

Sick policy for COVID-19

No child, visitor, or staff member will be allowed to enter the preschool premises if

- They have any symptom of COVID-19 or other respiratory illness.

Symptoms include

- | | |
|----------|--------------------------|
| - Fever | - Shortness of breath |
| - Chills | - Stuffy or runny nose |
| - Cough | - Lost of sense of smell |

- Headache
 - Muscle aches
 - Fatigue
 - Loss of appetite
- They have been in contact with a person in their household who has any respiratory symptoms or COVID-19 symptom (that has not been cleared by a doctor as not being COVID-19) Once the family member is cleared from COVID-19, the child **that is asymptomatic** can attend the preschool. If the family member does not have a COVID swab, the child could return to school after 14 days of family member's symptoms onset, AND if the child is asymptomatic.
 - They or a member of their household have tested positive for COVID-19
 - They have been in contact with somebody who has tested positive for COVID-19
 - They or a member of their household have been outside of Canada in the last 14 days
 - They have been told by public health to self-isolate
- ★ All children and staff with symptoms of respiratory illnesses, the common cold or flu, or COVID-19, **must** stay home until all their symptoms are resolved. Children who have a negative COVID swab can return to school once symptoms have resolved. Children who have symptoms but do not have swab done can return to school after 10 days from symptoms onset AND must also be asymptomatic.
 - ★ Families can use the BC COVID-19 self-assessment tool or contact 8-1-1 for more guidelines.
 - ★ If a child has a sudden onset of symptoms of respiratory illnesses, the common cold or flu, or COVID-19 while at the preschool, an educator will immediately contact the family to pick up the child. While the child is waiting, one educator will stay with this child in a designated area away from other children to wait. All toys and surfaces that were touched by the child will be washed and/or sanitised after the child has left.
 - ★ If a staff member becomes sick at work, the staff member will go home and follow the sick policy. If a substitute teacher is needed, the teachers will inform the executive. If the ratio can not be maintained, a responsible adult (parent) with Criminal Record Check, will be phoned immediately.
 - ★ Children and staff who have symptoms from seasonal allergies do not have to stay home. If there are any changes to their symptoms or they are unsure about the cause, they must stay home and be assessed by a health care worker. Families will be required to provide a doctor's note on this allergy condition to the preschool.

In the event of a confirmed COVID-19 case

- Staff will immediately inform licencing and public health and follow their protocols and recommendations.
- Public health will determine the need to exclude any children or staff, or to temporarily close the preschool.

Handwashing policy

All individuals in the preschool should wash hands (or use hand sanitizer if soap and water is not available.)

When?

- When arriving and departing
- After sneezing or coughing
- When hands are dirty
- Before eating
- After being outside
- After using the washroom
- Before preparing food
- Before administering medication
- When removing masks or gloves
- When cleaning body fluids

How?

- Wet hands
- Apply soap
- Lather and rub for 20 seconds
- Rinse hands under running water
- Dry with paper towel
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UitUdTjhZz8&feature=youtu.be>

Cleaning policy

- All toys and materials will be cleaned/sanitized after each class.
- Toys that cannot be cleaned immediately between classes will be rotated with others
- Books will be placed in 'quarantine' for 3 days after use
- Between classes all surfaces will be sanitized as usual, with extra emphasis on all high touch areas.
- Remove all toys that were mouthed will be removed immediately, washed and sanitized before returning the toy.

- Inside and outside areas and toys will be cleaned after each class
- The Green Team will perform a deep clean of preschool weekly.

Snack policy

- Snack will be prepared by the teachers while COVID-19 protocols are in place.
- Snack will be served by adults only.
- Children will not be allowed to share plates/cups/utensils or food.
- Physical distancing during snack time will be maintained by providing children with adequate room and space at the table.
- Birthday snacks must be in the original packaging and will be served by the teachers. Due to COVID-19 protocols, we no longer accept homemade treats for birthdays.

Laundry policy

- Laundry will be washed by laundry parents or staff in hot settings and dried on a hot setting in the dryer.

Physical distancing and program planning

- Physical distancing will not be enforced in the preschool setting.
- Staff will ensure activities and centres are planned to encourage smaller groups and use of the whole space of the room.
- More time will be spent outside.
- Playdough and water from the water table will be discarded after each class.
- Sensory activities will be individualized.
- Soft toys, dress-up items, as well as toys that are difficult to clean will be limited.
- No cooking or baking.
- Art supplies will be provided by the staff and the open art shelf will be closed.
- All art utensils like scissors and brushes will be washed after use.
- Encourage children to use proper hand washing and coughing/sneezing etiquette.

Group time policy

- To encourage physical distancing during circle/group time, a larger area will be used.
- We recognize music and singing is a very important part of early learning, therefore, we will continue to incorporate music and movement in our program. Teachers endeavor to maintain social distancing whenever possible and will wear a face mask while singing and storytelling.

For more information:

- BCCDC & BC Ministry of Health's COVID-19 Public Health Guidance for Child Care Settings
- BCCDC's FAQs For Child Care Operators & Staff
- <https://www.worksafebc.com/en/about-us/covid-19-updates/covid-19-returning-safe-operation/child-care>.