

COVID Safety Plan for Queen's Park Preschool: October 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 expected that you will assess your child using the Daily Health Check List (see below) before you arrive to the preschool. All families should familiarize themselves with the 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.
- 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

As of September 25th , 2020, the BCCDC has updated their Covid-19 guidelines for Child Care facilities. At Queen' s Park Preschool, we have amended our Covid-19 procedures.

1. The **daily health check** needs to be done **at home**, and teachers will no longer ask the questions. The responsibility to conduct a daily health check before attending or dropping off their child lies with the family. (See new updated

screening below). All adults entering the premises should also conduct a daily health screening.

Daily Health Check			
1. Key Symptoms of Illness	Do you have any of the following new key symptoms?	CIRCLE ONE	
	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

2. **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, COVID Assessment Centre 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.

3. **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.

4. **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.
 5. If a COVID-19 test is recommended as a result of the health assessment, self-isolate while waiting for results.
 - a. **If the COVID-19 test is positive**, self-isolate and follow the direction of public health.
 - b. **If the COVID-19 test is negative**, return to the child care facility once well enough to participate.
 - c. **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.
 - d. **If a COVID-19 test is not recommended**, staff or children may return when well enough to participate.
 6. **For mild symptoms** without fever, children and staff members should stay home and monitor symptoms for 24 hours. If symptoms improve and the child/staff member feels well enough, they can return to the child care facility without further assessment or doctor’s note.
- ★ 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.

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
- 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.
- 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>.
- http://www.bccdc.ca/Health-Info-Site/Documents/COVID_public_guidance/Guidance_Child_Care.pdf