



Updated Policies November 9, 2020

COVID-19 Pandemic

Blind Bay Munchkins Childcare Ltd.

These policies are in effect at all 3 licensed facilities; Blind Bay Munchkins Childcare, Summit Kids Childcare and Shuswap Explorers'

Blind Bay Munchkins Childcare Ltd. strives to maintain quality programs for your children while supporting the health and safety of our families and educators. We understand that these are unprecedented times and we are still here to provide exceptional care for your family.

Staff or children who have symptoms of a common cold, influenza, COVID-19 or other infectious respiratory diseases are to remain at home.

Staff will assess themselves daily for symptoms and will stay home if they are ill.

Children or staff may return to the centre once they are assessed by their family physician or nurse practitioner and it is determined that they do NOT have COVID-19, **and/or** their symptoms have resolved.

On arrival, staff will review the health of the child with the parent, **before** the child enters the facility. If the child has any symptoms, they must return home as per the health policy.

Symptom	May return when
Temperature of 100 F / 37.8 C or higher (orally) or 99 F / 37.2 C or higher (under the arm)	May return to child care after a doctor's note or negative COVID-19 test is provided AND or when symptom free
Runny nose	May return to child care after a

	doctor's note or negative COVID-19 test is provided AND or when symptom free
Cough	May return to child care after a doctor's note or negative COVID-19 test is provided AND or when symptom free
Sore throat	May return to child care after a doctor's note or negative COVID-19 test is provided AND or when symptom free
Difficulty breathing or wheezing	May return to child care after a doctor's note or negative COVID-19 test is provided AND or when symptom free
Unexplained fatigue, aches or cold/flu-like symptoms	May return to child care after a doctor's note or negative COVID-19 test is provided AND or when symptom free
Sinus congestion	May return to child care after a doctor's note or negative COVID-19 test is provided AND or when symptom free
Children who have, or children with others living in the same home who have just returned from international travel	May return after self-isolating for 14 days AND being symptom free
Children who have, or children with others living in the same home who have been identified as at-risk of potential Covid19 exposure	May return after self-isolating for 14 days AND being symptom free

[*\(Reference: Health Authority memo; COVID19 in childcare\)*](#)

Additionally, our regular health and wellness policy stands:

Children may not attend child care programs while they have any of the following symptoms:

- unusual, unexplained loss of appetite, fatigue, irritability, or headache
- eye infections
- unexplained rashes or any rash that is not confirmed by doctor to be non-contagious
- known or suspected communicable diseases (measles, chicken pox, pink eye, hand foot and mouth, etc)
- ear infection
- nausea, vomiting and/or diarrhea in the last 48 hours

If a child presents any symptoms while in care, is generally unwell or unable to participate in the program the child's parent or guardian will be contacted to pick up immediately.

Until the child is picked up they will be in a separate area, supervised and supported as necessary.

No parents or outside visitors are to be entering the building- if deemed necessary to enter- hands are to be sanitized and masks worn while maintaining physical distance from staff and other children while keeping their hands to themselves and touching as little as possible.

Cleaning and Disinfecting

Regular cleaning and disinfecting will be done in accordance with BCCDC's guidance for Public Settings.

- Centers are cleaned and disinfected a minimum of 1x per 24hours.
- High touch surfaces such as door handles, light switches or toys used by multiple children are to be disinfected a minimum of 2x/day
- Clean and disinfect any surface that is visibly dirty
- Clean and Disinfect cots, cribs, and changing stations after each use.

Regular bleach and water solution is to be used. Fresh solution made daily.

The bus is sanitized before and after each use with hand washing/sanitizing of staff and children before and after transportation.

Measures that are taken to support effective cleaning and disinfection:

- Limit the amount of items that cannot be easily cleaned (beanbags, fabric toys etc...)
- Empty garbage bins daily and when full

- Disposable gloves are to be worn when handling blood or body fluids- wash hands before and after.
- Hand Sanitizer and Lysol wipes are readily available in multiple locations

Physical Distancing

It is not necessary to limit closeness with children as we are here to support children's development and provide an environment that has adequate space for the number of children in care.

Staff will try to:

- Reduce face to face contact with other staff members and parents and practise physical distancing when possible
- Organize activities that encourage individual okay and more space between children and staff
- Encourage children to minimize physical contact with each other (age appropriate)

Sick Leave Policy for Employees

- Educators that are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms are encouraged to stay home and monitor symptoms.
- Educators should stay home when new symptoms of illness develop such as; fever, chills, cough, difficulty breathing, loss of sense or taste, nausea, diarrhea or vomiting.

For mild symptoms without fever, staff member should stay home and monitor symptoms for 24 hours. If symptoms improve and the educator feels better than they may return to the facility without a doctor's note or further assessment.

If symptoms include a fever, difficulty breathing, last more than 24 hours or get worse, staff are to seek a health assessment by calling 8-1-1 or their doctor. If a COVID-19 test is recommended then follow the direction of public health.

If a COVID-19 test is not recommended then staff may return when well enough to participate.

Hand Hygiene

Children will wash hands:

- When they arrive and before they go home
- Before and after eating or drinking
- After using the washroom or diapering

- After playing outside
- After handling animals
- After sneezing or coughing
- Whenever hands are visibly dirty.

Staff will wash hands regularly and:

- When they arrive and before they go home
- Before and after handling food
- Before and after giving or applying medication
- After diapering and toileting
- After assisting children with care needs
- After using the washroom
- After contact with any body fluids (runny noses, spit, vomit, blood)
- After cleaning tasks
- After removing gloves
- After handling garbage
- Whenever hands are visibly dirty

Respiratory Etiquette

Staff will always be mindful of respiratory etiquette and encourage children to do the same. For example, cough into elbow/tissue, throw away tissues, wash immediately and not touch eyes nose or mouth with unwashed hands.

Personal Items

Children are encouraged not to bring toys or personal items from home- if a child needs to bring an item from home they are to be taken home for washing or washed daily at the center.

Bedding is to be washed daily.

Creating a Safe Environment

Programs and activities will be held outside as much as possible, when inside we will use fans to circulate air and open windows for fresh air when weather permits.

As always the health and safety of our staff and children are of utmost importance.

As licensed facilities we continue to follow the direction of our local health authorities.

