



Updated Policies January 21. 2022

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 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.

Symptoms include:

- Fever of 100 F or higher
- Runny nose
- Cough
- Sore Throat
- Difficulty breathing or wheezing
- Unexplained aches, pains, body fatigue
- Sinus congestion

The child may return to childcare when symptom free for 24hours without the use of medication.

Children who have, or children living in the same home who have tested positive with Covid19 must stay home and follow Public Health recommendations/orders.

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 and comfortable 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 or Vital Oxide 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:

- Each child's bedding is kept separate/labeled and washed weekly or daily depending on the child's schedule.
- 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, sanitizing spray and Lysol wipes are readily available in multiple locations
- Good hand hygiene is practised immediately after changing diapers or helping with toileting.

Physical Distancing

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

Illness Measures for Educators

- Educators that are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms should stay home until well enough to participate in activities.

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, educators 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 and children will wash hands regularly with soap and water along with immediately before eating and after toileting or diapering.

Respiratory Etiquette

Staff should 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 regularly at the center.

Creating a Safe Environment

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

Masks

All adults (including staff, practicum students, volunteers and visitors) child care settings are required to wear a mask at all times while indoors, subject to the following exceptions:

- If the adult is unable to wear a mask because of a psychological, behavioural, or health condition;
- If the adult is unable to put on or remove a mask without the assistance of another person
- If the mask is removed temporarily for the purposes of identifying the adult wearing it;
- If the adult is eating or drinking;
- If the mask is removed temporarily to engage in an educational activity that cannot be performed while wearing a mask (e.g. actively playing a wind instrument, high-intensity physical activity, etc.)
- If the adult is behind a barrier (e.g., a divider or in a room by themselves)
- If the adult is alone in a space (i.e. no other child, staff, visitors, or other persons are present)
- While providing a service where visual cues, facial expressions, lip reading, or lip movements are important.

To align with requirements in other indoor settings, such as schools, school-aged children attending child care at Summit Kids and Shuswap Explorers are required to wear a mask while indoors subject to the following exceptions:

- If the child is unable to wear a mask because of a psychological, behavioural, or health condition
- If the child is unable to put on or remove a mask without the assistance of another person
- If the mask is removed temporarily for the purposes of identifying the child wearing it
- If the child is eating or drinking
- If the mask is removed temporarily to engage in an educational activity that cannot be performed while wearing a mask (e.g. actively playing a wind instrument, high-intensity physical activity, etc.)
- If the child is behind a barrier (e.g., a divider, a cubicle, or in a room by themselves)
- While communicating with a person with a disability or diverse ability for whom visual cues, facial expressions, lip reading, or lip movements are important.

Younger children (not school age) attending Blind Bay Munchkins child care may wear a mask based on personal or family choice.

Children 2 and younger are not recommended to wear a mask.

Child care staff should supervise and support children to ensure safe and proper use if masks are worn.

Child care providers are encouraged to support mask use by children through positive and inclusive approaches, and not punitive or enforcement activities that exclude students from fully participating in activities or that could result in stigma.

Child care providers are also encouraged to ensure there are opportunities throughout the day for children to remove their masks.

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 licensing directives, Interior Health and the BCCDC.