



“Covid-19 Policy”

Dear In Space Childcare shareholders, staff and families, In light of the COVID-19 global pandemic, we feel it is important to clarify that Dr. Bonnie Henry has confirmed and encouraged childcares to remain open, where possible, to serve families that are needing childcare.

In Space Childcare Inc. will continue to follow all updated protocols and procedures as outlined by the Health Authorities and BC CDC. These were last updated Mar 3rd, 2022.

Given these important requirements, it is imperative that we are resolute in our health policy, and that all parents understand and agree to the following additional requirements.

We are reminding families that having your child attend childcare does mean that your entire family has a larger shared social distance bubble. Please behave responsibly and follow Dr Henry’s recommendations if you are attending childcare as well as socially interacting with individuals outside of your household. At this time, your “shared social distance bubble” includes all individuals that any member of your family interacts with, including your child. Provision of Care during staff illness as leaders are also required to stay home when exhibiting illness symptoms, until they have received a negative Covid-19 test. We will be addressing staff illness by bringing in back up leaders while any sick individual isolates for the required 5 day (vaxed) to two-week period (unvaxed). If for some reason all staff are infected at the same time, we will do our best to bring in back up staff who are registered, screened and approved, or we will have to close the centre for the two-week period, resulting in all families having to find alternate care. We will run the program at lower capacity if we only have one staff person able to work at any one time and will have to have children attend alternating days to ensure that staff to child ratios are upheld. At this time, we are running ratio at a 1:12 or 1:15 depending on the age group of children as approved by Island Health.

Illness and Attendance

Children may not attend In Space Childcare Inc. if they exhibit any symptoms of respiratory illness or fever. Our pandemic health & wellness policy is attached. There are no exceptions to this illness policy. This policy will be remaining in place indefinitely. As such, parents are encouraged to think through how they will work from home/care for children who are required to stay home until they are symptom-free. If your child suffers from seasonal allergies, they may attend with a doctor’s note. Individuals residing in the household with any child attending In Space Childcare Inc. are to be taking all precautions possible to limit them to exposure to COVID-19.

Fees are not being refunded due to illness - be it staff or child illness or in the event In Space Childcare Inc. is ordered to close by the Province of BC, The Government of Canada, Island Health, The Company of In Space Childcare Inc. itself due to sickness or lack of staff due to illness, In Space Childcare Inc. also reserves the right that if any other governing body that has the power to close In Space Childcare Inc. not listed above due to any Covid-19 event that the above policy still applies.

Arrival

Masks are optional for staff but they must physically distance from parents inside. Parents recommended to wear a mask when in our sites inside. All Space Explorers (Children) have the option to wear a mask but it is not required while inside In Space centres. Outside masks also remain optional for all above groups. You may be asked to pick your child up from the front doors of the facility. When speaking with staff please keep 6 feet apart at all times. A leader will be on hand to greet your child and to check in with you regarding how your child's day has gone so far, and to quickly assess your child for any signs or symptoms of sickness. You may not leave your child without speaking to a staff person on hand. All of your child's things: toys, outdoor gear, lunch/snacks and water bottle must be in a maximum of two backpacks. One for toys/schoolwork, and one for food, clothing, water bottles, sunscreen, hat, change of clothes etc. Your child must be able to pack his or her own bag. Your child will be responsible for all of their items and must pack them up and bring them home to be sanitized/cleaned as needed every day. When arriving please place bags in a daily sanitized gray cubby. Children are recommended to bring items they wish to play with or work on throughout the day. Outdoors, children have plenty of room to play while giving other students lots of space. New outdoor toys have been provided for their enjoyment.

Pick Up

Children and parents are responsible for packing up their own belongings at this time to be taken home each day and to be cleaned as needed.

Cleaning and Sanitization

Following the current health authority guidelines for sanitization and care:

Our inside classroom, including all accessible materials, is disinfected twice per day and is deep cleaned after hours each day. Disinfection must be completed using a health authority approved sanitizer, which is a bleach, alcohol or quad- based solution. Outdoor toys are also sanitized daily. We respect that some families prefer us not to use these disinfectants, and feel they are "unnatural" products. Unfortunately, these are the only options we have for disinfection. Hands are washed with soap and water, after toileting, when coming in from outdoors, after any kind of possible contamination, and prior to eating. When soap and water are not available, leaders supervise the use of hand sanitizer for each child.

Lunch & Snacks

During the school year only (Not during Pro-D Day, Spring, Summer or Winter Camps) Our snack program has now seen a safe return in partnership with WorkSafe BC & Food Safe practices in place.

For camp times please be mindful of our food policies. When packing snacks & lunches. Also, healthy snacks are encouraged over snacks and beverages that are considered unhealthy.

Sunscreen

In order to reduce possible spread of illness, we ask you to please provide your children with daily sunscreen on when they come in hot weather months.

Necessary Gear

Your child needs to be wearing appropriate clothing and shoes for outdoor play each day. An extra set of clothing needs to be in their bag, and a hat and a light sweater/rain gear need to be included at all times. Please ensure that your child is wearing closed-toed shoes. Flip flops are not appropriate footwear for our, outdoor program.

Illness policy

Recognizing that childcare programs may be the only option for essential service workers to secure childcare in order to work, our programs have been elected to remain open to families at this time. Please remember that the Covid19 public health emergency is rapidly changing, and our ability to remain open may change without notice; or we may be ordered closed in the upcoming months by BC's provincial health officer, Dr. Bonnie Henry, and/or our licensing officer.

Accordingly, please note the following Covid19 Health and Wellness policy, which applies to all staff and children within this facility. Parents are expected to complete a health review of their child at home. This should include taking their child's temperature. Parents will additionally be asked health check questions by the staff each morning, confirming that their child is symptom-free and that their child has not been given acetaminophen or ibuprofen in the last 12 hours. In the event that a parent is found to be not answering this statement truthfully or withholding important medical information, childcare will no longer be provided to that family.

Symptom May return when
The temperature of 100 F / 37.8 C
or higher (orally) or 99 F / 37.2
C or higher (under the arm)

May return to childcare after a medical note or negative
COVID19 test confirm the child does not have
COVID19 and the child is symptom-free for 48 hours.

Runny nose May return to childcare after a medical note or negative
COVID19 test confirm the child does not have
COVID19 and the child is symptom free.

Cough May return to childcare after a medical note or negative
COVID19 test confirm the child does not have
COVID19 and the child is symptom free.

Sore throat May return to childcare after a medical note or negative
COVID19 test confirm the child does not have
COVID19 and the child is symptom free.

Difficulty breathing or wheezing
May return to childcare after a medical note or negative
COVID19 test confirm the child does not have
COVID19 and the child is symptom free.

Unexplained fatigue, aches or cold/flu-like symptoms
May return to childcare after a medical note or negative
COVID19 test confirm the child does not have
COVID19 and the child is symptom free.

Sinus congestion
May return to childcare after a medical note or negative
COVID19 test confirm the child does not have
COVID19 and the child is symptom free.

Eye infections, discharge, red/pink eyes
May return to childcare after a medical note or
negative COVID19 test confirm the child does not have COVID19
and the child is symptom-free

Children who have, or children
with others living in the same
home who has just returned
from international travel
May return after self-isolating for 5 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 5 days and being
symptom-free. *Note, this does not apply to health
care providers. In the event that the person in the
home is a health care provider, this only applies in
the event that the person who is a health care

the provider has been directed to self-isolate due to possible exposure or symptoms.
Allergies May attend with a medical note.

(Reference: Health Authority memo; COVID19 in childcare)

Additionally, our regular health and wellness policy stands:
Children may not attend childcare 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 a doctor to be non-contagious
- Known or suspected communicable diseases (measles, chickenpox, pink eye, hand foot, and mouth, etc.)
- Ear infection
- Nausea, vomiting and/or diarrhea in the last 48 hours

For the well-being of children, staff, and families, open transparency and candor are required around all the above requirements. Although this may lead to some challenging conversations, staff and families need to acknowledge and respect their necessity and their intention of care during the pandemic. We sincerely appreciate your compliance and understanding.

This notice will be posted at the facility & on our website.

Dear parents and staff, thank you for supporting us in this time. This 4-page document has been written and approved by current serving Chief Executive Officer Matthew J.P. Boudot dated this Friday, May 22, 2020. to comply with the new BC code for childcare providers during a pandemic.

This document has been revised this Mar 3rd, 2022 by current serving Chief Executive Officer Matthew J.P. Boudot.

