

## **Covid-19 On-Site Illness Policy for staff and children** *(updated Oct. 2020)*

### **Purpose**

Whistler Waldorf School has adopted this policy to ensure that all reasonable measures are taken to ensure a safe working and learning environment for Whistler Waldorf faculty, staff and children and to ensure clarity relating to on-site attendance. Whistler Waldorf School follows the guidelines from the Ministry of Children and Family Development, Vancouver Coastal Health Authority, Work Safe B.C., and the B.C. Centre for Disease Control.

**These measures are in addition to the School's Student Illness Policy as outlined in the parent handbook.**

### **ILLNESS AND SELF ASSESSMENT PROTOCOLS**

Staying home when sick is one of the most important ways to reduce the spread of communicable diseases, including COVID-19. This is why it is important for anyone who is sick to stay home. Staff or children who are experiencing symptoms of a previously diagnosed health condition do not need to stay home and should not be required to provide a doctor's note to attend a childcare facility. Asymptomatic staff and children may still attend childcare settings if a member of their household develops new symptoms of illness. If the household member tests positive for COVID-19, public health will advise on self-isolation and when they may return to the childcare setting.

Childcare Provider, parents and guardians will self-assess and assess children daily for symptoms of common cold, influenza, COVID-19 or other infectious respiratory disease prior to entering the Licensed daycare program. Children and childcare providers should stay at home when new symptoms of illness develop, including:

- Runny nose
- Sore throat
- Loss of appetite
- Muscle aches
- Headache
- Fever
- Chills
- Cough
- Difficulty breathing (in small children, this can look like breathing fast or working hard to breathe)
- Loss of sense of smell or taste
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

**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 childcare facility without further assessment or doctor's note.

**If symptoms include fever or difficulty breathing, or if symptoms last for more than 24 hours or get worse**, seek a health assessment by calling 8-1-1 or a primary care provider. If a COVID-19 test is recommended as a result of the health assessment, self-isolate while waiting for results (see information on how results are provided [here](#)).

- If the COVID-19 test is positive, self-isolate and follow the direction of public health.
- If the COVID-19 test is negative, return to the child care facility once well enough to participate.
- If a COVID-19 test is recommended but not done, self-isolate for 10 days after the onset of symptoms and return when feeling well enough to participate.

**If you are unsure, call 8-1-1 for advice.**

See the [BCCDC website](#) for more information on when to seek emergency care.

If a COVID-19 test is not recommended, staff and children may return when well enough to participate, as per our illness policy.

## **MANAGING ILLNESS IN CHILD CARE SETTINGS**

**If a child develops any new symptoms of illness while in a childcare setting:**

Staff must take the following steps:

1. Immediately separate the symptomatic child from others in a supervised area.
2. Contact the child's parent or caregiver to pick them up as soon as possible.
3. Where possible, maintain a 2-metre distance from the ill child. If not possible, staff should wear a nonmedical mask or face covering if available and tolerated or use a tissue to cover their nose and mouth.
4. Provide the child tissues to cover their coughs or sneezes. Throw away used tissues as soon as possible and perform hand hygiene.
5. Avoid touching the child's body fluids (e.g., mucous, saliva). If you do, practice diligent hand hygiene.
6. Once the child is picked up, practice diligent hand hygiene.
7. Staff responsible for facility cleaning must clean and disinfect the space where the child was separated and any areas recently used by them (e.g., toys, classroom, bathroom, common areas).

Parents or caregivers should pick up their child as soon as possible if they are notified their child is ill.

**If a staff member develops any new symptoms of illness while in a childcare setting:**

Staff should go home as soon as possible. Contact the Early Year Licensing Manager and/or the Early Year Chair and/or the Whistler Waldorf school administration to arrange coverage immediately.

If unable to leave immediately:

1. Symptomatic staff should separate themselves into an area away from others.
2. Maintain a distance of 2 metres from others.
3. Use a tissue or non-medical mask to cover their nose and mouth while they wait to be ready to leave.
4. Staff responsible for facility cleaning must clean and disinfect the space where the staff member was separated and any areas used by them (e.g., classroom, bathroom, common areas).