

## Health & Wellness Policy

Recognizing that child care programs may be the only option for essential service workers to secure child care in order to work, our program will remain open (with reduced services) 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 weeks by BC's provincial health officer, Dr. Bonnie Henry, and/or our licensing officer.

Dr. Henry maintains that child care centres can safely care for children if they are following the prescribed health protocols.

*We do not recommend that children with underlying health concerns, or children who live within a household with any underlying health concerns that are considered to be an additional risk for Covid19, attend child care programs during the Covid19 pandemic.*

Accordingly, please note the following Covid19 Health and Wellness policy, which applies to all staff and children within this facility.

Upon arrival, children will have their temperature taken, together with the parent and educator, **before** entering the facility. If the child has a high temperature, they must be taken home and remain home, as per the health policy, below. \*\*Ear thermometers will not be used, as "Earwax or a small, curved ear canal can interfere with the accuracy of a temperature taken with a digital ear thermometer." **We will be using a no-touch forehead thermometer.**

Parents will additionally be asked to confirm that their child is symptom free and that their child has not been given fever reducing medications in the last 12 hours. We will also ask if the child has been in contact with someone who has been exposed to Covid, travelled outside of BC or been in contact with someone who has. In the event that a parent is found to be not answering this statement truthfully or withholding important medical information, child care will no longer be provided to that family.

<b>Symptom</b>	<b>May return when</b>
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 24 hours AND symptom free; or following a negative Covid test and 24 hours symptom free.

Runny nose	May return to child care after 24 hours AND symptom free; or following a negative Covid test and 24 hours symptom free.
Cough	May return to child care after 24 hours AND symptom free; or following a negative Covid test and 24 hours symptom free.
Sore throat	May return to child care after 24 hours AND symptom free; or following a negative Covid test and 24 hours symptom free.
Difficulty breathing or wheezing	May return to child care after 24 hours AND symptom free; or following a negative Covid test and 24 hours symptom free.
Unexplained fatigue, aches or cold/flu-like symptoms	May return to child care after 24 hours AND symptom free; or following a negative Covid test and 24 hours symptom free.
Sinus congestion	May return to child care after 24 hours AND symptom free; or following a negative Covid test and 24 hours 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 <b>and</b> symptom free.
Children who have been in close contact with person(s) with Covid-19	May return after self-isolating for 14 days <b>and</b> symptom free
Children who have tested positive for Covid-19	Must isolate until VCH authorities/doctors have approved that the child can go back to school.

*(Reference: Health Authority memo; COVID19 in childcare)*

### **Piano Students**

If in-person students or staff are asked to isolate by VCH, lessons can be conducted online during that period. Please do not attend your in-person classes if you receive a notice to self-isolate.

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

For the well-being of children, staff and families, open transparency and candor is 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.