



Deer Run Community Child Care Covid-19 Protocols

Preventing Covid-19 Outbreak

August 30, 2020

Deer Run Community Child Care



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What is COVID–19?

The novel coronavirus (COVID–19) is an infectious disease caused by a strain of coronavirus discovered in 2019. This highly contagious respiratory virus spreads through droplets generated when an infected person coughs, sneezes, or exhales. These droplets are too heavy to suspend in the air and quickly fall on floors and surfaces. The virus can live on surfaces for varying amounts of time.

One can be infected by breathing in the virus if in close proximity to someone who has COVID-19, or by touching a contaminated surface and then the eyes, nose or mouth without properly sanitizing.

Most individuals who fall ill with COVID-19 will experience mild-to-moderate symptoms and recover without hospitalization. However, some who fall ill may need hospitalization which is why Deer Run Community Child Care will take precautions to limit the spread of COVID-19.

Deer Run Community Child Care and COVID-19

Deer Run Community Child Care (DRCC) acknowledges that this is a difficult time for all. We understand that the trauma associated with this pandemic is not developmentally appropriate for our children. With this in mind, our focus will be on the children’s emotional and mental wellbeing so that they can feel supported to focus on learning and playing. We will take every government mandated precaution and additional precautions that will keep our children mentally and physically safe.

Please note: This document is a general guideline and protocols will be altered as we settle on best practices to offer a safe and smooth COVID-19 transition.



Amended Sickness Policy

The DRCC sickness policy has been amended to include symptoms of COVID-19. It is the goal of DRCC to avoid any unnecessary closures due to COVID-19. All children and staff exhibiting the following symptoms will be required to stay home and will be sent home immediately if symptoms displayed while in care. Please ensure a plan is in place for self-isolation. Deer Run Community Child Care will not reimburse for unused childcare days.

- new or worsening cough
- shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- temperature equal to or over 38°C
- feeling feverish
- chills
- fatigue or weakness
- muscle or body aches
- new loss of smell or taste
- headache
- gastrointestinal symptoms (abdominal pain, diarrhea, vomiting)
- Lethargic, overly tired, unusually calm or quiet
- Mild respiratory illness/issues
- Sore throat
- Runny Nose
- Conjunctivitis (pink eye)

Children will be required to be picked up within one-hour of being notified of illness. Failure to do so may result in termination of care. Children must be tested for COVID-19 and must remain in isolation until the test results are available.

For more information please see the Government of Canada website:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection/symptoms>



Protocols to Prevent the Spread

Daily Health Screenings

All persons entering the Deer Run Community Centre will fill out a COVID-19 Self-Assessment questionnaire. All staff and children will receive a no-touch temperature check upon arrival. This screening will help us determine if it is safe for your child(ren) to participate. The questionnaires will be held in a secure location for two weeks as required by the Alberta Health Services guidelines. After the two-week window, the questionnaires will be destroyed.

At Home

- Parents must take their child's temperature and do a wellness assessment prior to leaving home every morning. If a child has a temperature of 38°C or higher, parents must notify the program and keep their child home.
- Parents must answer a COVID-19 self-assessment prior to drop-off and pick-up of children.

At the Centre

- All staff and children's temperature will be taken upon entry at the DRCC and entry will be refused if temperature reads 38°C or higher.
- All persons entering the Deer Run Community Centre building must answer a COVID-19 self-assessment questionnaire each day.
- Parents are asked to remain outside the Deer Run Community Centre Building unless absolutely necessary in order to allow for social distancing. **During drop-off, parents must not leave the parking lot until their child has been cleared for admission by staff. If the child is not cleared, parents must take their child home.**

Physical/ Social Distancing

The Deer Run Community Child Care we will reduce group sizes to no larger than 30 people, including children and adults. We will keep groups together throughout the day, and will not combine groups (e.g., at opening and closing). We will endeavor to maintain the same groups from day-to-day. This will help reduce potential exposures and prevent our entire program from shutting down should exposure occur.



At Deer Run community Child Care we will commit to the following:

- Limit the number of children in each program space.
- Increase the distance between children during lunch and play.
- Limit item sharing, and if items are being shared, remind children not to touch their faces and wash their hands after using these items.
- Minimize time standing in lines.
- Incorporate additional outside time and open windows (where possible) frequently.
- Adjust the HVAC system to allow for more fresh air to enter the program space (where possible).
- Avoid gathering in larger groups.
- No non-essential visitors or volunteers (parents must remain outside the facility unless necessary).

Increased Hygiene and Sanitation Protocols

Staff will work diligently with children to incorporate additional handwashing and surface sanitation into the programming to reduce the spread of germs. In addition to regular hand washing, sanitizer stations are located at the main entrance of the building, the hallways, inside the kitchen and inside childcare rooms for adults.

- Practicing personal hand washing hygiene, and cough/ sneeze etiquette.
- Using an approved cleaning agent to wipe all surfaces and follow up with a disinfectant or approved bleach solution.
- Each room will have a high touch surface checklist for cleaning and disinfecting that must be completed at minimum three (3) times per day.
- Toys will be separated and only a limited amount will be available at a time to limit the amount of equipment cleaning needed throughout each shift / rotation.
- All toys will go into a receptacle after use and will be disinfected before being put out for play again.
- Any items that are not easily sanitized may be removed from childcare rooms including, but not limited to, soft surfaces such as couches, pillows, blankets, carpets, stuffed toys, books, and board games with small pieces.
- Each child will have a separate bin for art supplies that will not be shared with others. It will include glue, markers, ruler, pencil, sharpener, eraser, and paper. Staff will provide



craft supplies to children in addition to basic supplies but sharing of craft materials will not be permitted.

- Empty garbage and recycle bins frequently to prevent materials with body fluid from remaining in the building.

Community Centre Signage

Staff will ensure that reminders are posted at the entrance and by sinks with reminders of:

- Wearing a mask.
- Daily temperature checks.
- Practicing hand hygiene, and cough/ sneeze etiquette.
- Do not enter if ill.
- “Help prevent the spread” posters.
- Social distancing markers for cohorts and meal times (ie. floor tape, cones, or rubber markers).

Decreased Materials and Increased Physical Activity

Materials and equipment in the program will be limited and rotated daily to ensure enhanced cleaning schedule can be maintained. Carpets, stuffed toys, and other soft, difficult to clean materials will be removed. An increased focus will be placed on physical activities, games and outdoor play to keep all children happy and healthy.

Personal Protective Equipment

As a public facility, according to the City of Calgary bylaw, all persons entering the Deer Run Community Centre building must wear a face covering (mask or face shield), unless exempt. Staff members will be mandated to wear masks and/ or faces shields while at Deer Run Community Child Care Centre, unless exempt. Masks may be removed when social distancing can be achieved in the gym or outside and when eating/ drinking in a socially distant manner.



Changes to Programming

Hours & Fees

Reduced Hours: 7:00 am - 6:00 pm

- Drop offs will begin no earlier than 7am and pick-ups must be made prior to 6pm. Late fees will be strictly enforced by the minute. Recurrence of late pickups may result in termination of care. These measures are necessary to allow staff the time to disinfect all surfaces.
- Fees shall be paid on the first of the month for the entire month and will not be prorated for any reason, including closure due to COVID-19 Outbreak.
- Fees will be paid through etransfer to finance@deerruncalgary.com.
- Spaces have been limited due to social distancing measures. We ask that families commit to their monthly space whether they use it or not as this will ensure DRCC can cover expenses and remain open.

Drop Off & Pick Up

In order to stay socially distant and limit the spread, parents are asked not to come into the centre when dropping off or picking up their children. This process will be a work in progress as we utilize new tools to coordinate drop off schedules and will change in the coming weeks.

- Parents must complete the COVID-19 self-assessment prior to dropping off their children. A copy has been added to the end of this document. Please print it out and have it at your door.
- Parents will not enter the facility for pickups and drop-offs unless absolutely necessary. I.e. behavioural concern or a meeting with the director.
- Staff will coordinate with parents to establish a pick-up schedule to eliminate overlapping pick up and drop off.
- Parents must remain beside their vehicle and wait. Please tell your children to stand on the red X if there is a line. If necessary, call the center to advise arrival. Please send your child to the appropriate door.
 - **Daycare Doors:** Daycare children.
 - **Junior Room Doors:** Kindergarten & Grade One.
 - **Main Centre Doors:** Grade two to six.



- Staff will notify parents once the child's temperature has been cleared for admittance. At that time, parents may leave the parking lot.
- Sanitizer stations are located on walls beside all entrances to the building for all adults entering the building but will be kept out of reach of children. Children are not recommended to use hand sanitizer and will instead wash hands upon entering the facility and frequently throughout the day.

Meals & Snack Times

- Meals and snacks will be consumed with social distancing. No combining of cohort groups will be allowed.
- Children will bring snacks, water bottle, and lunch in containers that children can open/close independently. Lunch, snack kits, and water bottles will remain inside the children's backpack. Lunches will not be stored in the kitchen refrigerator and will not be heated up until further notice. Thermoses are suggested for children who prefer hot food. Reusable lunch kit icepacks are suggested for food that must remain cold.
- All snacks provided by DRCC will be pre-packaged to reduce handling.
- Breakfast will not be served in the mornings until further notice.

Items from Home

- Children will not be allowed to bring toys, stuffed animals, tablets, or phones from home into the centre. *Calming/ fidget items will be approved at the discretion of the Director.
- All personal items such as lunchboxes and articles of clothing must stay in personal backpacks and kept in the same area as others in their selected cohort in order to mitigate risk of cross contamination.
- Outdoor shoes must remain on/ in the child's assigned shoe mat (daycare and junior room) or locker (older kids). Shoes will not be permitted on any common shelves or on the floor.

COVID-19 INFORMATION

COVID-19 ALBERTA HEALTH DAILY CHECKLIST

Overview

This tool has been developed to support activity organizers, employers, businesses and facility operators in reducing the risk of transmission of COVID-19 among attendees/staff. The tool is meant to be used to assist with assessing attendees who may be symptomatic, or who may have been exposed to someone who is ill or has confirmed COVID-19.

Attendees should fill out this checklist prior to participating in the activity or program. If an individual answers YES to any of the questions, they must not be allowed to attend or participate in the activity or program. Children and youth will need a parent to assist them to complete this screening tool.

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to evolve, this screening tool will be updated as required.

Screening Questions

1. Does the attendee have any new onset (or worsening) of any of the following symptoms:		CIRCLE ONE	
	• Fever	YES	NO
	• Cough	YES	NO
	• Shortness of Breath / Difficulty Breathing	YES	NO
	• Sore throat	YES	NO
	• Chills	YES	NO
	• Painful swallowing	YES	NO
	• Runny Nose / Nasal Congestion	YES	NO
	• Feeling unwell / Fatigued	YES	NO
	• Nausea / Vomiting / Diarrhea	YES	NO
	• Unexplained loss of appetite	YES	NO
	• Loss of sense of taste or smell	YES	NO
	• Muscle/ Joint aches	YES	NO
	• Headache	YES	NO
	• Conjunctivitis (commonly known as pink eye)	YES	NO
2.	Has the attendee travelled outside of Canada in the last 14 days?	YES	NO
3.	Has the attendee had close contact* with a confirmed case of COVID-19 in the last 14 days?	YES	NO
4.	Has the attendee had close contact with a symptomatic** close contact of a confirmed case of COVID-19 in the last 14 days?	YES	NO

* Face-to-face contact within 2 metres. A health care worker in a occupational setting wearing the recommended personal protective equipment is not considered to be a close contact.

** 'Ill/symptomatic' means someone with COVID-19 symptoms on the list above.