

**Health and Wellness Policy
(Pandemic Policy)**



Definition of Pandemic:

A pandemic is an epidemic of an infectious disease that has spread across a large region, for instance multiple continents or worldwide, affecting a substantial number of people. A widespread endemic disease with a stable number of infected people is not a pandemic. Widespread endemic diseases with a stable number of infected people such as recurrences of seasonal influenza are generally excluded as they occur simultaneously in large regions of the globe rather than being spread worldwide.

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pandemic>

Definition of Epidemic:

An epidemic is the rapid spread of disease to a large number of people in a given population within a short period of time. For example, in meningococcal infections, an attack rate in excess of 15 cases per 100,000 people for two consecutive weeks is considered an epidemic.

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Epidemic>

Overview:

This document is the steps to be taken for the re-opening and operation of Blueberry Playschool. This policy supersedes any and all sickness policies. This document has been based off of the “COVID-19 Information Guidance for Preschools” issued by the Government of Alberta dated June 11, 2020.

In future situations, a pandemic or epidemic **has** to be announced by, at least, two of the following governing parties the Government of Canada, Government of Alberta or Alberta Health Services (AHS).

Prior to re-opening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All water pipes will be flushed with fresh water to replace the stagnant water in the lines.
Staff and Screening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All staff and volunteers will assess themselves
Additional public health measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Blueberry Preschool can operate in cohorts of 30 children. This allows Blueberry Playschool to run at a capacity of 14 children for the first class, and 13 for the second class (if available.) with 2 staff members (teacher and aid/volunteer). A mask is always recommended for the volunteer. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A cohort is defined as a group of children and staff members assigned to them who stay together throughout the day. Staff may only be assigned to one cohort, even if the program operates halfday classes. This means that the total number of people in all classes supervised by a single staff member (half day or otherwise) cannot exceed 30. If a staff member must work with more than one cohort (i.e. multiple classes of 30 people), they must wear a mask at all times. Cohorts cannot mix with other cohorts or be within in the same room/space at the same time, including pickups and drop-offs, mealtimes, playtime, outdoor activities, staff rooms, naptime, etc. Separate cohort groups may be divided by non-permeable physical barriers. These barriers must be at least 2 metres high or 2 metres apart Due to the limited time with the children there are no lunch or coffee breaks for staff.

<p>Use of Shared Spaces</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blueberry Playschool is the only program offered out of the location. • Shared spaces, structures and toys that cannot be cleaned and disinfected between cohorts will not be used. • The only shared space available to Blueberry Playschool is the hall located on upper level of the facility; as this space is only used by the playschool during extreme weather conditions and the children only do physical activities and do not touch anything in the hall, this is not applicable. • Only one cohort at a time may use a licensed outdoor play space. Preschools are encouraged to also use alternatives to licensed outdoor play spaces, such as walks and supervised play in parks and safe open spaces. Follow physical distancing practices when possible. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Signage will be posted stating that only children of the playschool are allowed on the small playground, on the days the is playschool. • Each cohort should have designated equipment (e.g., balls, loose equipment) or clean and disinfect equipment between cohort uses. • • There is no nap time at the playschool. • The center should establish a plan to prevent mingling of cohorts in washrooms and no unnecessary items should be stored in washrooms. • Blueberry Playschool is the only user of their space in the hall.
<p>Entering and exiting (pick up and drop off):</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See new Pick up and Drop Off Procedure • Anyone who enters the facility is to sign in and out regardless of children present or not. • Any parent/guardian who is requested to show up early, must stay two meters away from all staff and children. • Alcohol based hand sanitizer will be placed at entrance for pickup/drop offs. Dispensers will be high enough for children to not reach. Instructions will be posted. • Signs will be posted at entrance reminding parents/guardians and visitors to not enter if they have signs of sickness.
<p>Sick parents, staff, or children</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parents and children must not enter the preschool space if they have COVID symptoms • Parents are required to check their child's temperature prior to attending school each day. • Reference of normal temperatures are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Mouth: 35.5 to 37.5°C ○ Underarm: 36.5 to 37.5°C ○ Ear: 35.8 to 38.0°C * temperature range Blueberry Playschool will use. • Parent conducting drop off is required to fill out the Screening Questionnaire for each child every morning, prior to drop off, to ensure the child is fit to enter facility. • If a child starts to feel unwell while at the program, said child will be isolated in a separate space, and the parent(s) will be notified to come and collect the child immediately. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ If the child requires assistance, staff can care for the child while wearing a mask during interactions and avoid contact with the child's respiratory secretions. ○ Staff should wash their hands often while being in contact with sick child. ○ All areas and toys while isolated child was located should be cleaned and disinfected as soon as he/she is picked up. Items that can not be cleaned and/or disinfected (like, paper,

	<p>books, puzzles etc) should be removed from the center and stored in a sealed container for a minimum of 10 days</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whenever possible, the staff will have a record of children’s pre-existing conditions. (eg. Allergies, asthma) Please provide a doctor’s note. • COVID symptoms look like: fever, cough, shortness of breath, sore throat, runny nose, nasal congestion, headache, and general feeling of being unwell. <p>PLEASE KEEP YOUR CHILD AT HOME</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When informing the teacher of your child’s absence, if a parent feels inclined to explain their child’s absence it will be kept confidential. • If two or more children are identified as having symptoms consistent with COVID, the preschool program should follow outbreak notification procedures as per routine zone protocols. • If more than one child has been identified as having symptoms consistent with COVID-19, the program will follow outbreak notification procedures as per routine zone protocols. • If the program relates to a confirmed or probable case of COVID-19, we are required to close for a minimum of 72 hours to allow contact tracing. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Blueberry Playschool will adhere to the recommendations from Alberta Health Services.
Safe practices onsite	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whenever practical and possible, activities will not violate the public health order. • Whenever practical and possible, physical distancing practices should occur: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Avoid close greetings such as hugs and/or handshakes, encouraging “air high fives” and waves. ○ Planning for physical distancing activities like shadow tag and avoid clustering activities. ○ Plan room set up to avoid traffic jams • Use of masks by program staff is only encouraged for prolonged close interactions with children (e.g. assisting with snack time) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Masks must be disposed of properly. Disposable masks in a lined trash container; reusable masks in a sealed container. • Whenever practical and possible, staff and children will have proper hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette (washing hands frequently, sneeze/cough into their elbow, put used tissues in a waste receptacle and wash hands immediately) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Age appropriate signage will be posted, with visual cues of proper hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette. • Blueberry Playschool will adhere to the handwashing guidelines outlined in the AHS Health and Safety Child Care Guidelines. While alcohol-based hand sanitizer is not typically recommended for routine use in preschools, it has been proven effective for hand hygiene when soap and water is not readily available. Access to hand sanitizer needs to be monitored in all times and can result in accidental poisoning if ingested. Children must be closely supervised when using alcohol-based hand sanitizer. Manufacture instructions for each product must be followed. • Snack Time: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Food is already provided by the family ○ Child’s lunch kit is stored in child’s belongings and is touched by child after they have used the facilities and washed their hands.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ See the <i>Nutrition Policy</i> for prep, cleaning, and sanitizing, along with child spacing ○ There are no common food times. ○ Utensils are always encouraged – when provided by family. ● No celebrations with food items(birthdays or holidays of any sort) of any sort. ● Field trips, group transportation, holiday events, performances or celebrations will be postponed or cancelled until further notice is given.
Cleaning and Disinfecting items	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● See the Cleaning and Disinfecting Procedure

If a closure is announced, Blueberry Playschool follows Parkland School Division No. 70 guidelines and take our leads from them. The current board will make closure decisions based on Government of Canada, Government of Alberta, AHS and Parkland School Division information.

If your child/family refuses or ignores to acknowledge posted COVID-19 guidance's, it will be a "3 Strike Rule"

1. Verbal warning – noted in the child's file
2. Written warning – a letter written up of violation, 2 copies made and signed by teacher/president and family
3. Dismissal