Pandemic Policies (Covid) – Starlight Christian Nursery School

The following are a list of procedures put into place regarding the Covid – 19 pandemic. These procedures will be followed by all families, staff and visitors who enter the school.

**Screening**

Any child, parent, staff or visitor will not be allowed to enter the child care space if they are sick, even if symptoms resemble a mild cold. Symptoms that will be screened for include:

Any 1 of these symptoms Any 2 or more of these symptoms

* Fever
* Cough
* Shortness of breath
* Sore throat
* Loss of taste or smell
* Vomiting, or diarrhea for more than 24 hours
* Runny Nose
* Muscle Aches
* Fatigue
* Conjunctivitis (Pink Eye)
* Headache
* Skin Rach of unknown cause
* Nausea or loss of appetite

Starlight Christian Nursery School will also exercise judgment. For example, if a child has known allergies or has been cleared by a doctor will be allowed to attend classes. We will be using the Screening Tool set out by Manitoba Public Health, and follow all guidelines set out by the province to maintain a healthy environment.

These questions are designed to reduce risk of exposure to COVID-19. Guidelines may change based on emerging circumstances and information from public health officials. You will be asked each morning the following questions, which are based on screening questions used at health care centres:

• In the past 14 days has your child, or anyone in your household, returned from travel outside Manitoba, including travel within Canada? – We reserve the right to deny children based on their travel and means of travel.

• In the past 14 days has your child, or anyone in your household, had exposure to a confirmed case of COVID-19?

o (If yes, they are required to self-isolate for 14 days. If they are symptomatic [e.g., if they have respiratory symptoms] refer to Health Links-Info Santé for further direction).

o NOTE - Exposure may include scenarios like large events or settings with confirmed case(s) of COVID-19.

• In addition to any of the above, does your child, or anyone in your household, have cold or flu symptoms (e.g., fever higher than 38 degrees celsuis, new cough, runny nose, sore throat, shortness of breath/breathing difficulties)?

If parents respond yes to any of the above noted questions or anyone in the household exhibits any symptoms consistent with cold or flu, their child should remain at home.

A child who meets any of the exclusion criteria will not be admitted to the centre and will be advised to immediately isolate and consult Health Links - Info Santé or their health care provider. Those with symptoms should be tested, and if negative for COVID-19 they can return 24 hours after symptoms resolve. If individuals choose not to be tested, they should isolate for 14 days from symptom onset, and may return if symptoms have resolved at that time.

All families must check for fever before attending classes, this includes all members of the family. For reference, normal temperatures are: - Mouth: 35.5 - 37.5°C (95.9 - 99.5°F) - Underarm: 36.5 - 37.5°C (97.7 - 99.5°F) - Ear (not recommended in infants): 35.8 - 38.0°C (96.4 - 100.4°F)

**Visitor access**

At this time, we will not be allowing any visitor access into the school. This includes volunteerings, therapists and other programming helpers. Due to Covid we will not be offering any volunteer positions to families, but hope to change this as the year progresses.

**Day to day prevention**

Our staff and children are taking various steps and actions to limit the spread of COVID19. Many steps are already part of our daily program are already part of the quality care provided through our programs. However, special attention will be paid to ensuring they are followed at this time.

**Social distancing:** It is important to note that social distancing advice is meant for interactions among colleagues, strangers and adults, etc. We are taking some of the various steps to continue to provide a safe and secure learning environment:

* Our program will continue to run as close to normal as possible.
* Where possible, we have arranged spaces to encourage more separation. For example, spacing children to avoid close contact during meal and nap times and assigning a designated chair and table for each child.
* We have arranged the room to allow for more space in each of our centres.
* When possible, children will go to the bathroom in smaller groups.
* Drop off will be staggered so there is less congestion in the foyer and less families who enter the school.
* Pick up will be done outside, so there will be no families inside the school.

Programming will be done with the children to encourage more social distancing, but we also understand that much of Nursery is to teach Social Interactions!

**Handwashing**: Everyone who enters the school will engage in frequent handwashing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds at the following times:

• at the start of the day and before going home

• after going to the washroom

• after a diaper change (both children and staff)

• before preparing food

• before eating

 • after getting hands dirty

• after wiping nose or handling dirty tissues

• after coughing, sneezing and blowing nose

• after cleaning tasks (staff)

Staff will help young children to ensure handwashing is done correctly. Good hygiene practices can be taught in a playful manner. One idea is to have timers to help ensure adequate time. **Alcohol-based hand rub (ABHR) will NEVER be used on the children or the staff!!**

**Hygiene Etiquette:** Respiratory etiquette should be modeled, taught and reinforced regularly. This includes coughing and sneezing into a tissue or sleeve, as well as proper and prompt disposal of

any used tissues followed by hand hygiene.

No personal items (e.g. hats, hair accessories, lip balm, food/drinks) should be shared.

Avoid touching your mouth, nose or eyes, and encourage children to do the same.

**Cleaning and disinfecting:** Our school will engage in frequent thorough cleaning every day, using routine practices that follow regulations for cleaning, sanitizing and disinfecting. Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces, as per the Best Practices Licensing Manual.

Toys: We have increased the frequency of the cleaning schedule for these items, and all toys/furniture will be throughouly cleaned between AM and PM classes. We continue to use the same Bleach Solutions set forth by Public Health. We are continuing to monitor as Public Health standards and will increase as the need arises.

We have removed most items that are not easily disinfected, but have kept some plush toys that we wash each day. We have also removed the Dress Up items for the time being, but these will return after Christmas.

We are enforcing a NO TOYS brought into the School rule and will send home all toys!

**"No sharing" policies:** We will continue to reinforce no food or water bottle sharing policies for children. Generally, these policies are intended to reduce potential exposures to allergens, but the practice of not sharing food or water bottles in child care facilities also helps reduce virus transmission between staff and children.

**Pick Up and Drop Off**

At this time we will limit the amount of adults into the School. All families will be met at the door by a Staff who will go over all screening questions. If they pass screening the children will be escorted into the school by our Staff who will then help them get undressed and ready for the day. We are asking that no adults come into the school unless absolutely necessary. We understand that for the first few classes, some children will feel more comfortable with their parents, so if this is the case only 1 adult will be allowed into the school and they MUST WEAR A MASK AT ALL TIMES INSIDE THE SCHOOL and wash their hands before entering the classroom.

\*Children will be signed in and out by staff this year\*

Pick will be done outside for the first few months. Children will have all their belongings with them outside and parents can simply drive up and come get their children. NO FAMILIES WILL BE PERMITTED TO ENTER THE SCHOOL AT THIS TIME!

**What happens if a child exhibits symptoms?**

If a child develops symptoms while at the school, the child will be isolated in a separate room. A mask will be provided to and worn by the sick child.

The parent will be notified to come and pick up the child immediately. The parent

or guardian will be asked to contact Health Links – Info Santé (204-788-8200 or 1-888-315-9257) or

the child’s health care provider for direction, if required.

A staff will continue to care for the child until the parent is able to pick-up the child. All possible precautions will be taken to reduce the risk of transmission from the child to the staff. A medical mask will be worn by the staff person caring for the child. Additional environmental cleaning will occur and will include high-touch areas and areas where the child spent time. All items (e.g., bedding and toys) used by the child while isolated, will be cleaned and disinfected as soon as the child has been

picked up.

A sick child can return to the school once it has been determined that it is safe to do so by their health care provider or public health. If that child has a positive test, further direction will be provided by a public health nurse. Public health typically follows up with contacts of cases within 24 to48 hours. If there is no notification by public health within that time frame, you can assume no contacts within the centre have been identified or the sick child has been confirmed not to have COVID-19.

**What happens if a staff member exhibits symptoms?**

Staff will use the self-assessment tool before attending work, and be directed to stay home if they are feeling unwell. If a staff member or volunteer in a child care facility becomes symptomatic, they will immediately isolate themselves from other staff and children, and go home to isolate. They should then contact Health Links – Info Santé (204-788-8200 or 1-888-315-9257) or their health care provider for direction. Additional environmental cleaning should occur. Focus should be in high-touch areas and areas where the staff/volunteer spent time.

A sick staff member can return to work once it has been determined that it is safe to do so by their health care provider or public health. If that staff has a positive test, further direction will be provided by a public health nurse. Public health typically follows up with contacts of cases within 24 to48 hours. If there is no notification by public health within that time frame, you can assume no contacts within the centre have been identified or the sick staff member has been confirmed not to have COVID-19.

**Outbreak Management**

In the event that a case of COVID-19 is confirmed to be connected to a child care centre, public health will provide additional guidance including ensuring that appropriate supports are in place to coordinate the response. One (1) confirmed case of COVID-19 in a child care setting would be considered an outbreak.

Public health actions and directions may include, but are not limited to:

* contact tracing, which involves identifying contacts of a positive case and contacting those individuals,
* requesting records that identify cohorts/groups of staff and children in the child care setting for a specified time frame,
* testing of staff and children that may have been exposed to a positive case,
* enhancing environmental cleaning, and
* assessing need for facility closure.

Starlight Christian Nursery School will continue to work with public health to ensure a prompt response to cases of COVID-19 that may have been exposed in or may have attended a child care centre.

Covid Policies

I agree to the following policies set out by Starlight Christian Nursery School in regards to the Covid Pandemic:

* I will use the provided pre-screening tool to decide if my child is able to attend the program
* I will inform the school of my child’s absences regardless of reason
* I will inform the school if my child exhibits any symptoms related to Covid
* I will inform the school if any members of the household exhibit any symptoms related to Covid
* I will keep my child home if they are feeling unwell
* I will follow all social distancing rules both inside and outside the school
* I understand children will be dropped off at the door and no parents will be allowed inside the building
* I understand that all adults must wear a mask if they must enter the building (Adults must provide their own masks)
* I will follow all Hygiene Practices set out by the School
* I will follow all Public Health Recommendations (screening, self-isolation, testing)
* I will inform the school immediately if anyone in the family has a positive test result
* I will inform the school immediately if anyone in the family has come into contact with anyone who has tested positive
* I promise to follow all other rules and procedures as they occur through MELCC, Public Health and the Board of Directors

By signing below I agree to follow the policies listed above. Failure to do so can lead to termination (without refund) of my child(ren).

Parents signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parents signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_