

# COVID – 19 RESPONSE PLAN: EMPLOYERS, EDUCATORS, AND FAMILIES WORKING TOGETHER



Now that the Alberta Government is updating and lifting restrictions, it is important for parents to know how Juvenescence policies may be changing too.

We have heard from parents, kids, and Educators concerning the continuation of some of our policies built for the height of the pandemic. Everything we have built and followed for the last 18 months has been strictly implemented to limit the possible spread of contamination in our programs. As you know, children under the age of 12 are still not vaccinated. However, we are aware that many aspects of children's lives have now reverted back to pre-pandemic practices.

We want to ensure that we are doing everything we can for the safety and well – being of the children, families, and our teams, especially as we monitor the situation of returning to school and being in close proximity to others. Our COVID response plan will take a staged approach that we feel is appropriate moving forward into the school year. This approach will be triggered by Provincial benchmarks that are based on science.

## STAGE 1 – Precautionary Restrictions

Triggered by 2 weeks of Alberta's R-Value above 0.5

**MASKING** Children and staff will continue to wear masks while indoors and when groups are within 2 meters of each other's (school hallways) and during times they may be in close proximity to other groups (on a bus).

Masks will not be mandated when doing physical activities or when playing outside.

As a tenant with the school board, Juvenescence is required to follow school mandated policies/guidance.

**COHORTS** Will not exceed 35 children

**HEALTH CHECKS** Mandatory before entry

**SYMPTOMS** Any symptoms of illness will be refused at the door or sent home as per our previous illness policy. The participant may not return until 24 hours after the last symptoms have resolved. If symptoms present while at the program, the participant will be separated and monitored while waiting for a parent to pick up. Pick up of ill children must within 45 minutes.

**ISOLATION** 10 – day isolation is mandatory for those who have tested positive for COVID – 19. We will continue to follow Alberta Health Service

guidelines and recommendations and they are 24 hours symptom free, whichever is longer.

**CLOSE CONTACTS** AHS is no longer contact tracing; however, we recommend that any family that is confirmed to have a case of COVID – 19, notify the program so that contact tracing can be conducted within the program, and further cleaning of materials if needed.

**CLEANING** We will maintain the strict cleaning procedures created at all times.

**FAMILIES IN PROGRAM:** Families will continue to drop off and pick up children by texting the centre. No visitors will be allowed in the centre.

**FEES** Fee policies and notice periods to change care remain in effect as signed off on at the time of registration.

## STAGE 2 – TRANSITION RESTRICTIONS

Triggered by 2 weeks of Alberta's R-Value below 0.5

**MASKING** Children and staff will need to wear masks until in their cohort (school hallways) and during times that they may be in close proximity to other groups (on a bus).

Masks will not be mandated when doing physical activities or when playing outdoors.

As a tenant with the school board, Juvenescence is required to follow school mandated policies/guidance.

**COHORTS** Will not exceed 50 children

**HEALTH CHECKS** Mandatory before entry

**SYMPTOMS** Any symptoms of illness will be refused at the door or sent home as per our previous illness policy. The participant may not return until 24 hours after the last symptoms have resolved. If symptoms present while at the program, the participant will be separated and monitored while waiting for a parent to pick up. Pick up of ill children must within 45 minutes.

**ISOLATION** 10 – day isolation is mandatory for those who have tested positive for COVID – 19. We will continue to follow Alberta Health Service guidelines and recommendations and they are 24 hours symptom free, whichever is longer.

**CLOSE CONTACTS** AHS is no longer contact tracing; however, we recommend that any family that is confirmed to have a case of COVID – 19, notify the program so that contact tracing can be conducted within the program, and further cleaning of materials in needed.

**CLEANING** We will maintain the strict cleaning procedures created at all times.

**FAMILIES IN PROGRAM** Families will continue to drop off and pick up children by texting the centre. No visitors will be allowed in the centre.

**FEES** Fee policies and notice periods to change care remain in effect as signed off on at the time of registration.

### STAGE 3 – All Restrictions Removed

Triggered by 70% of children being vaccinated

**MASKING** Masks will no longer be mandated but will be the choice of children and staff who may still want to take extra precautions

**COHORTS** Will return to normal

**HEALTH CHECKS** Will remain as a safety measure

**SYMPTOMS** Any symptoms of illness will be refused at the door or sent home as per our previous illness policy. The participant may not return until 24 hours after the last symptoms have resolved. If symptoms present while at the program, the participant will be separated and monitored while waiting for a parent to pick up. Pick up of ill children must within 45 minutes.

**ISOLATION** 10 – day isolation is mandatory for those who have tested positive for COVID – 19. We will continue to follow Alberta Health Service guidelines and recommendations and they are 24 hours symptom free, whichever is longer.

**CLOSE CONTACTS** Children will not need to isolate unless mandated by AHS

**CLEANING** We will maintain the strict cleaning procedures created at all times.

**FAMILIES IN PROGRAM** Parents will be allowed to visit the program again.

**FEES** Fee policies and notice periods to change care remain in effect as signed off on at the time of registration.

This is a living document, meaning that it is continuing to change and evolve as ideas, schools, and government information and best practices evolve. Our goal is to maintain the safest program possible while supporting children, families, and staff in having the best experiences at Juvenescence and balancing the protection of mental health and the need to prevent the spread of COVID – 19.

## COVID – 19 PREVENTION POLICIES & PRACTICES

### SAFETY IS A 3 – WAY STREET

Juvenescence Employees and Parents have an obligation to follow safety protocols to ensure not only their own safety but also the safety of those they encounter, including society’s vulnerable population, such as children who are not of age to be vaccinated.

### *Juvenescence is committed to the following protocol:*

- Eliminate large group activities
- 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.
- Restricting entry on non – essential visitors or volunteers.

#### **OUTSIDE PLAY**

- Outside play will be staggered in shifts or if multiple groups are outside at the same time, they will have a minimum of 10 meters of open space between outdoor play areas.
- Park play will be permitted provided children wash hands before and after using the equipment.
- Outdoor toys and equipment will be sanitized before each group plays outside. Staff will sanitize all outdoor toys between groups. Handrails, toy bins, and locks must be disinfected after each use. Please check at the beginning of each shift that your First Aid backpack has sanitizer and paper towel for appropriate cleaning.

#### **MEALS & SNACK TIME**

- Meals and snacks will be consumed with social distancing in mind, no combining of groups will be allowed.
- Children will bring snacks, water bottles and lunch from home that does not require heating and in containers that children can open/close independently.
- Should a staff need to help children with food, gloved hands will be used and then gloves will be disposed.

#### **DROP-OFF & PICK UP**

- We will not combine cohorts in the morning or afternoon.
- Parents need to call the centre when arriving to stagger parents dropping off/picking up children.
- Staff will confirm parents have conducted the COVID – 19 Alberta Health Daily Checklist before children can be dropped off.
- Parents will not be allowed in the centre.
- Staff will be responsible for child sign in/out to prevent the spread of germs.
- A daily record will be kept of anyone entering the facility for 15 minutes or longer.
- Sanitizer will be in the entrance 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 frequently.

#### **EMPLOYEE BEST PRACTICES**

- All employees should ensure they understand and comply with the infection prevention policies and practices in place at Juvenescence.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol – based hand sanitizer.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Cough or sneeze into the bend of your elbow.
- Avoid touching surfaces people touch often.
- Use friendly waves, elbow bumps or foot – high fives instead of handshakes.
- Use any necessary personal protective equipment as provided. Keep your environment clean.
- Use appropriate products to clean and disinfect items within your group space, work surfaces, shelves, toys, chairs and tables, doorknobs, windows more often, especially when visibly dirty.
- Keep 2 meters between you and your coworkers and parents.
- Supervision practices in the playroom should incorporate physical distancing of staff, limiting

any contact closer than 2 meters to the shortest time possible.

- If you have symptoms of COVID – 19 or if you think you have COVID – 19, use the [COVID-19 Alberta Health Daily Checklist](#) or call 811 to find out what to do.
- If you develop even mild symptoms while at work, separate yourself from others and go home, avoiding the use of public transportation.

### COVID – 19 SYMPTOMS

All children and staff exhibiting the following **will be required to follow the [COVID-19 Alberta Health Daily Checklist](#).**

- Fever
- Cough
- Shortness of breath
- Loss of sense of smell or taste
- Chills
- Sore throat/painful swallowing
- Runny nose/congestion
- Feeling unwell/fatigued
- Nausea, vomiting and/or diarrhea
- Unexplained loss of appetite
- Muscle/joint aches
- Headache
- Conjunctivitis

**It is our policy to always follow mandated sanitization procedures to prevent the spread of communicable disease.**

### CHILDREN, STAFF OR PARENTS WHO DEVELOP COVID-19 OR SYMPTOMS

- Children or staff who have tested positive for COVID – 19 will be required to isolate for 10 days or until symptoms resolve, whichever is longer.
- If symptoms of COVID – 19 develop while at the centre, staff will immediately separate the child from other children until the ill child are be picked up.
- All items touched will be immediately sanitized upon departure.

- Parents will be expected to pickup the child immediately, within 45 minutes.
- If symptoms persist or worsen, call 811 for further guidance. Report to the centre Director immediately if your child is diagnosed with COVID – 19.
- Staff should wear appropriate PPE when interacting with a child who is ill. This includes gloves, mask, and apron that can be removed after the child leaves.

**If you have symptoms of COVID – 19, use the Alberta Health Daily Checklist and follow instructions from AHS regarding testing.**

### CLEANING PRACTICES

- Use QUAT to wipe all surfaces and follow up by disinfecting the surface using Ultra-Lyte.
- A high tough surface checklist for cleaning and disinfecting must be completed at least 2 times and day and at minimum between group using common spaces.
- All toys played with go into a receptacle after use and will be disinfected before being used again. Toys will be disinfected between uses and cleaned weekly for visible dirt in accordance with AHS guidelines.
- Items not easily sanitized will be removed from the centre.
- Empty garbage and recycle bins frequently to prevent materials with body fluid from remaining in the centre.

### QUICK FACTS FOR STAFF

Juvenescence is committed to keeping our staff and children safe. We are continually adapting our practices to provide the best quality in childcare and safety practices.

During stressful times, it can be difficult to remember all the rules we have in place.

Please take a minute to read the rules below and support each other in maintaining a high standard of fun and safety.

1. Parents drop off at the door by texting or calling the centre that their child has arrived. A staff from the child's cohort opens the door, helps the child put their belongings away and takes them to join their group.
2. We do not allow deliveries into our centre. This is so we can control the amount of people in and out of the centre and minimize exposure.
3. We take all child and staff temperatures upon arrival. Each child and staff are required to do a wellness check each day before coming to the program by using the Alberta Health Daily Checklist. Clean the thermometer between each use.
4. The HIGH FREQUENCY CLEANING list is to be completed 2 – 3 times/day. This includes areas like door handles, front entrance, bathrooms, and sinks.
5. We are spraying down all outside toys with standard solution QUAT and allowing the surface to dry prior to letting the kids touch.
6. Staff should have a change of clothing available at the centre "in case". PPE such as mask, gloves and aprons are available to all staff.
7. Staff who are on break must remain 2 meters from any other staff, especially when from a different cohort.
8. We are using the WELLNESS LOG for staff and children. If a child is sent home, we log and track the illnesses and trends.
9. Toys will be disinfected with Ultra-Lyte between program components and will be cleaned of visible dirt weekly.
10. No family style meal service in any classrooms. All food must be brought from home. We suggest 2 snacks and a non – heated lunch. Children will be seated for meals with respect to social distancing rules.
11. Bathrooms get disinfected with Ultra-Lyte between program components and cleaned with Quat 2x/day. Washrooms must also be disinfected if cohorts share the same bathrooms.
12. No sharing of sensory items.
13. Educators need to encourage children to keep additional space between them (this is difficult, but we can try!)
14. Both staff and children are prohibited from bringing outside toys to the centre. No stuffies, toys, video games.
15. Children's' medication must be stored according to their cohort. Medications cannot be mixed between rooms.
16. It is the responsibility of every staff to do their due diligence in maintaining the policies that will keep children and staff safe. As a team, we will support each other to remember all the rules.