



## Covid-19 Policies and Procedures

At Mighty Mouse Daycare, the health and safety of both our staff and families are of the utmost importance. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, we will have the following policies and procedures in place until further notice. Please feel free to speak to us regarding any concerns that you may have.

For the time being, we will be removing certain toys and furniture from our centre that cannot be cleaned easily. These include plush stuffed toys and play blankets. We will also be limiting sensory play by not allowing it to be done in group activities (playdoh and sensory bins with rice, sand or water). If we bring playdoh in as an activity, each child will have their own portion that will be stored in their own labelled container. Children will be asked to wash their hands before and after engaging in this kind of activity. Extra bleaching and sanitizing will be happening on a regular basis and children's bedding will be washed daily, or as needed if soiled. We will be teaching children in our care how to properly wash our hands and to cough or sneeze into their "cough pockets" (the inside of their elbow). Children will be asked to wash their hands if their hands go in their mouths or noses. Likewise, staff will take the appropriate hygiene measures and etiquette that we expect of the children.

We are asking parents to use sanitizer upon entering the building, and before and after signing your child into their program.

We will continue to follow all guidelines set out by the government and public health officials. As things are changing rapidly, we will notify families of any policy changes within the centre regarding the Covid-19 pandemic. We want to thank you in advance for your cooperation as we all navigate our new normal!

### **Covid-19 Symptoms:**

• <b>FEVER</b>	• <b>CHILLS</b>
• <b>COUGH</b>	• <b>SNEEZING</b>
• <b>SHORTNESS OF BREATH</b>	• <b>SORE THROAT</b>
• <b>RUNNY NOSE</b>	• <b>LOSS OF TASTE OR SMELL</b>
• <b>HEADACHE</b>	• <b>FATIGUE</b>
• <b>DIARRHEA</b>	• <b>NAUSEA &amp; VOMITTING</b>
• <b>MUSCLE ACHES</b>	• <b>LOSS OF APETITE</b>

### **Less common symptoms can include:**

• <b>STUFFY NOSE</b>	• <b>CONJUNCTIVITIS (PINK EYE)</b>
• <b>DIZZINESS</b>	• <b>CONFUSION</b>
• <b>ABDOMINAL PAIN</b>	• <b>SKIN RASHES OR DISCOLOURATION OF FINGERS AND TOES</b>

If your child is showing any of the following symptoms while in care, they will be isolated away from the other children and you will be called immediately to come and pick them up. The room and toys that your child was playing with or isolated in will be disinfected and closed off to the other children.

FEVER – CHILLS – COUGH – DIFFICULTY BREATHING – LOSS OF SENSE OF SMELL OR  
TASTE – NAUSEA OR VOMITING – DIARRHEA

In accordance with the CDC guidelines:

If the staff or the child's parent/guardian indicates that the symptoms are consistent with a **previously diagnosed health condition** and are **not unusual for that individual**, they may return to daycare. No assessment or note is required from a health care.

If children and staff have only **one of the key symptoms without fever or difficulty breathing**, children and staff must **monitor at home for 24 hours**. If symptoms improve, they can return to the child care facility without further assessment or doctor's note.

If symptoms include **fever or difficulty breathing, have two or more of the key symptoms, or if after 24 hours, symptoms remain the same or get worse**, seek a health assessment. A health assessment can include the BC COVID-19 Self-Assessment Tool (<https://bc.thrive.health/covid19/en>), calling 8-1-1, a primary care provider like a physician or nurse practitioner or going to a COVID-19 testing centre.

- If a COVID-19 test is recommended as a result of the health assessment, self-isolate while waiting for results
- If the COVID-19 test is positive, self-isolate and follow the direction of public health.
- If the COVID-19 test is negative, return to the child care facility once they are symptom free for 48 hours.
- If a COVID-19 test is recommended but not done, self-isolate for 10 days after the onset of symptoms **AND** return when symptom free for 48 hours following the 10- day isolation.
- If a COVID-19 test is not recommended, staff and children may return when they are symptom free without medication for a full 48 hours.

If your child begins to show symptoms at home, you are required to follow these same procedures. All regular daycare fees are applicable.

If a child in our centre tests positive for COVID-19, staff will notify the other families within the centre and will be advised to monitor their children for any symptoms. A child who tests positive cannot attend regular care until 10 days after the onset of initial symptoms, AND all symptoms have resolved. All regular daycare fees are applicable.

If your family chooses to travel outside of Canada for any reason, as per our public health officials' guidelines, you are to self-quarantine at home for 14 days. If any of the COVID-19 symptoms are seen during this time, your child is unable to return for an additional 10 days from the onset of symptoms AND all symptoms have resolved. In these instances, all regular daycare fees are applicable.

If the Canadian government chooses to mandate that all childcare centres close temporarily, Mighty Mouse Daycare will not charge fees for times we cannot provide you with our regular services. If one of our staff members become ill with COVID-19 and we are unable to temporarily replace them and are forced to close for the time being, families will once again not be charged for the days we are unable to provide care.

Some strategies that we will be using within the daycare to prevent the spread of germs and to encourage proper hygiene are as follows:

Hand washing will happen:

- When your child enters the daycare (upon arrival) and before leaving the daycare
- Before and after eating any meals or snacks
- Before and after we go play outside
- Whenever they cough, sneeze or wipe their nose with a tissue
- Whenever they put their hands in their mouths or nose
- When hands look visibly dirty
- After toileting
- Periodically throughout the day, staff may encourage your child to wash their hands

We will be incorporating teaching about the spread of germs into our daily programming and will be encouraging your child not to touch their face or put toys on their face or in their mouth. If a toy goes on a child's face or in their mouths, the toy will be put into a bucket immediately to be disinfected. There are three garbage cans (one in the program and one in each bathroom) for your child to dispose of their

dirty tissue when wiping their nose. We will be limiting sensory play until it is deemed safe to do so. (sand/rice/water play)

Staff will be conducting extra cleaning and disinfecting each day to help eliminate the spread of germs. Touch surfaces will be disinfected twice daily (this includes door and cupboard handles, tops of shelving, garbage can lids, etc.). Staff will also clean visibly soiled surfaces and areas as needed. For the time being, there will be no plush toys or play blankets will be available to play with. We will also be limiting the number of toys in the program. This is to limit the amount of touchable surfaces that can get soiled. In doing this, we are able to rotate toys out more often when items are being disinfected. This will not limit your child's opportunity to explore and engage in play.

We are asking that **NO TOYS FROM HOME ARE BROUGHT INTO THE CENTER**. We are needing to limit what is coming in and out of the centre and we thank you in advance for your cooperation. We will be going outside routinely for more space and fresh air.

Please note that these policies are subject to change based on the recommendations of our public health officer. We encourage you to talk with your children about preventative measures that can be taken regarding the COVID-19 virus. The government is recommending the following strategies for proper hygiene.

**HAND WASHING:** Wash hands often (before and after eating, sneezing, coughing, wiping noses, upon arrival and departure from the daycare/other public spaces). Wash hands for at least 20 seconds in warm water.

**COUGH/SNEEZE ETIQUETTE:** Cough and sneeze into your cough pocket (inside elbow) or a tissue, and to wash hands immediately after.

**STAY HOME WHEN SICK:** We are asking that you please listen to your children when they tell you they are not feeling well. If you notice any of the above COVID-19 symptoms, they need to stay at home.

**KEEP CLEAN:** Keep hands away from your face and mouth. Reminding them often will likely be necessary as this is hard for children to learn, however consistency is key!

**STAY HEALTHY:** Make sure you are getting enough sleep and staying physically active, eating healthy foods and staying hydrated!