

Brandon Nursery School – COVID-19 Parent Information

The Brandon Nursery School is looking forward to meeting our new and returning students at our opening on September 14. Maintaining the health and safety of our students and staff will be our number one priority. We have carefully reviewed the 'Coronavirus (COVID-19) Early Learning and Child Care Practice Guidance'¹ document, and will be implementing new measures to help protect your child. These are in addition to the standard measures we normally use to keep our Nursery School safe.

Screening

Each day, parents, children, and staff will be required to screen themselves for COVID-19 symptoms before entering the nursery school. Individuals should self-isolate and not enter the nursery school if they:

- are experiencing symptoms suggestive of COVID-19,
- have travelled outside Manitoba in the previous 14 days,(Public Health Orders currently exclude locations in: Western Canada, the territories, and Ontario –west of Terrace Bay),
- are a close contact of a confirmed case of COVID-19, or
- are awaiting a COVID-19 test result (excluding persons tested as part of voluntary asymptomatic surveillance for COVID-19 that do not need to isolate).

An up-to-date list of symptoms can be found at

<https://www.gov.mb.ca/covid19/about/index.html>

Anyone who is unsure whether they or their child should be tested and self-isolate, should use the COVID-19 Screening Tool at <https://sharedhealthmb.ca/covid19/screening-tool/> or call Health Links at 1-888-315-9257.

Illness Policies

Child illness

- If your child is ill or exhibiting symptoms such as a runny nose, cough, fever, or a rash DO NOT bring your child to the nursery school. We will not permit sick children into the school.
- If a child falls ill while at the school, we will separate the child from the class, and notify the parent immediately. Parents will be required to pick their child up as soon as possible to keep everyone safe.
- Staff will be required to wear personal protective equipment when caring for an ill child until the parent comes to pick them up.
- If your child is sent home with symptoms of COVID-19 parents are advised to have their child tested.
 - If parents choose not to test, the child must be isolated for 14 days.
 - If your child's test comes back negative, the child can attend nursery school when everyone in the home is symptom free.
 - If the child's test comes back positive, there must be a 14-day isolation period and they must be symptom free before returning to daycare.
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Parent Illness

- If a parent falls ill or is exhibiting signs of COVID-19 we ask that your child not be brought to the nursery school.
- If you are showing symptoms of COVID-19 public health advises you to be tested. If parents choose not to test, the child must be kept home from nursery school for 14 days.
 - If your test comes back negative, the child can attend nursery school when everyone in the home is symptom free.
 - If the test comes back positive, there must be a 14 day isolation period and everyone in the home must be symptom free before returning to nursery school.
- If a parent falls ill during the day, we ask that an alternate pick up person be designated to pick the child up from nursery school.

Staff Illness

- If a staff member becomes ill when at the school, they will be asked to leave the nursery school immediately. We are required to maintain teacher/child ratios and will work to the best of our ability to maintain these if a staff member becomes ill while at the school. Parents may be required to pick up their child early if we are unable to maintain ratios due to staff illness on that day.

If there is a positive COVID-19 case connected to our school,

- Public Health will provide guidance including ensuring that appropriate supports are in place to coordinate the response.
- Public Health actions and directions are based on the specific circumstances and may include, but are not limited to:
 - case investigation, which involves interviewing the affected individual to determine where they may have been exposed or acquired the virus, when they were potentially infectious to others and identifying potential contacts,
 - contact tracing, which involves identifying contacts of a positive case and contacting those individuals,
 - requesting records that identify staff and children in the nursery school for a specified time frame,
 - testing of staff and children who may have been exposed to a positive case,
 - enhancing environmental cleaning, and
 - assessing need for facility closure. Note that facility closure is not required unless directed by Public Health.
- Nursery school staff and families will only be contacted by Public Health for contact tracing purposes if Public Health concludes that there was a risk of exposure to children or staff in the centre.

Absences

As per Brandon Nursery School bylaws, when a child is absent from class, fees are still required to be paid in full regardless of the reason for the absence.

Physical Distancing

While strict physical distancing of 2 metres cannot be reasonably maintained between children throughout the entire day, care will be taken to spread children out, and avoid prolonged close contact between children. Visual cues (ex. chairs, spots marked on floor) will be used to limit the number of children at each play station, and encourage children to spread throughout the room during free play and gym time. Classes will be divided into two groups during snack time and circle time to ensure more space between children.

Drop off and Pick up

- During drop off:
- Parents/guardians will enter in the 17th Street doors, and proceed downstairs. The doors will be unlocked between 8:45 and 9:15. Outside of these times, parents will need to ring the bell to enter.
- Students will have designated lockers and spaces for their belongings.
- Parents/guardians will sign their child in at the bulletin board.
- Parents/guardians are asked to maintaining physical distancing of 2 metres at all times.
- After dropping children off at the nursery school door, parents will exit out the 18th Street doors of the building.
- Wherever possible, the number of people entering the building is limited to one adult with the child.
- During pick up:
- Meet parents at the door
- Parents/guardians will wait outside at the 17th Street doors.
- They can message Melissa at (204)-720-7030 to notify her of their arrival.
- Teachers will prepare students with their belongings, and bring them to the doors to meet their parent/guardian.
- Teacher will sign child out on sign in/out sheet

Hygiene Practices

Children and staff will engage in hand washing at the following times:

- At the start of the day and before going home,
- After going to the washroom
- Before and after eating/drinking
- After getting hands dirty
- After wiping nose or handling dirty tissues
- After coughing, sneezing and blowing nose,

Environmental Cleaning

- We will engage in frequent, thorough cleaning and disinfection throughout the day of all high touch surfaces.
- Between each class (every day at 11:30 and 3:30) all high touch surfaces will be disinfected (tables, door knobs, light switches, faucets, lockers, etc.)

- Toys, balls, and other play equipment will be switched out between groups to limit potential spread of germs between classes.
- Toys that are not easily disinfected will be not used at this time. This includes play dough, sand and water tables, and plush toys.

Nursery school teachers will be busy after each class ensuring all areas are disinfected before the next group of children arrives. Please ensure that you are on time to pick up your child.

Snack Time

Parents/guardians provide their own food for their child for snack time.

¹The Province of Manitoba Coronavirus (COVID-19) Early Learning and Child Care Practice Guidance can be found at this link. https://manitoba.ca/asset_library/en/covid/famcirculars/Covid-19_ELCC_Practice_Guide_-_UPDATED_June_2020.pdf