

BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL CARE: FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What will Physical Distancing look in Before and After School Care?

Maintaining a distance of 2 metres between two or more children can be challenging and not always feasible in a school setting. However, the following physical distancing strategies will be implemented where possible.

- Leaders will regularly remind children to “keep your hands to yourself”
- Leaders will utilize outdoor space as much as possible
- Masks are mandatory for all adults that will be in the program and for children in grades K to 7.

All pick up and drop off will be taking place at the program’s exterior entrances where possible.

Otherwise, parents will enter facility through the usual doors.

Is my child required to wear a mask?

Masks are required for children who are in grade K and up in all Before and After School Care programs while indoors. All staff will be required to wear masks while in any City of Surrey facility or Surrey School site.

How will play be offered safely ?

- Exercise, play, and other activities will be done outdoors as much as possible. In the event of extreme weather, we have scheduled gym time in our gymnasium.
- Group play activities will be organized in a thoughtful way, taking into consideration physical distancing. Hand hygiene will be encouraged before and after play.

Will children be sharing toys and other items?

- We will offer toys and items that encourage individual play and that can be easily cleaned and reduce hand-to-hand-contact and cross contamination.
- We will provide adequate amounts of high touch materials, such as art supplies, in order to minimize sharing between children. There is no evidence that the COVID-19 virus is transmitted via

books, paper or other paper-based products. As such, there is no need to limit sharing of books or paper based resources to children.

- Supplies and materials (such as writing utensils) that have been used by children will be placed in a “To be cleaned” bin

Will the class sizes be smaller?

- The physical space requirements for licensed child care settings set out in the Child Care Licensing Regulation mean that child care centres already have sufficient space to support the physical distancing recommendations of the Provincial Health Officer.

In the event my child comes down with symptoms while at Before and After School Care, what is procedure?

- Symptomatic children are immediately separated from others and taken to the isolation room until they can go home. A staff member will remain with the child at all times.
- The parent or emergency contact will be notified to pick up the child immediately.
- Leader will get our “isolation package/comfort kit” which includes gloves, mask. Hygiene and respiratory etiquette will be practiced while the child is waiting to be picked up.
- Our staff will at this point be wearing a gown, gloves and mask. The space the child was isolated in will be disinfected once the child has been picked up.
- The local public health unit (8-1-1) will be contacted and notified of a potential case and seek input regarding the information that will be shared with other parents of children in the childcare centre.

Who must stay home even if they are not sick?

Please refer to the latest info on travel into Canada: <https://travel.gc.ca/travel-covid/travelrestrictions/covid-vaccinated-travellers-entering-canada>

When does the first payment come out?

The first payment will come out on September 1

My child is new to Before and After School Care. Can I stay to help transition him/her into the program?

Of course! Sometimes a new environment can be scary. Each child has a different way of dealing with separation. To ensure a healthy attachment, your presence may be required. A parent is welcome to stay and make this transition positive for everyone. As per the current Provincial Health Order, masks are mandatory in indoor public spaces.

Health and Safety Measures*

Based on the health guidance for childcare programs, our plans include a heightened level of health and safety measures. These include:

- Increased outdoor activities
- Routine daily screening for all staff
- Routine and frequent environmental cleaning
- Explicit policy for children or staff who have the symptoms of a cold, flu, or COVID-19 with coughing or sneezing not coming into preschool
- Promote and educate on good hygiene and respiratory etiquette
- Hand washing will happen continuously throughout the day
- Physical distancing (activities will all have the central idea of being socially distant) and for younger children, reducing physical contact through activities.
- Kids will have their own designated area to put their belongings and will access in an orderly fashion.
- No food sharing
- Designated sign-in and sign-out area for parents

*The City of Surrey is working in compliance with the Surrey School District regarding parents entering the school site program spaces.

Do I have to notify someone if my child will not be coming to Before and After School Care for the day?

If your child is unable to fully participate in the program due to illness, parents are asked to keep

children at home. A Health and Illness Procedure is in place to maintain the health and safety of all children. Please also notify the child's leader if your child has an illness, will be late or absent, or picked up early on a particular day.

What does my child need to bring to Before and After School Care?

Please ensure your child has a change of clothes and a healthy snack in their backpack.

Do I need to provide a snack for my child?

Yes, parents should provide a nutritious snack for your child each day of class.

What if I need to withdraw my child from the program?

Please contact the Call Centre at 604.501.5100. Our \$50 program withdrawal fee applies within seven days of the start of the program or anytime during the year.

My payment and/or contact information has changed - who should I contact?

If your address, phone number or payment information has changed, please contact the Call Centre at 604.501.5100. We also ask that you inform your child's leader of any changes to personal information.

Will my child play outside?

All licensed childcare programs in the province must ensure children have daily access to outdoor play. In the City of Surrey our Active Play Policy mandates a minimum of 30 minutes of outdoor play per day, rain or shine. These outdoor play times vary depending on the length of the program. In extreme weather conditions (thunder and lightning, high winds) indoor active play may be an alternative. With our Active Play Policy in mind, please ensure your child has appropriate clothes and protection for the weather (for example: sunscreen, rain jacket, hat, boots, gloves, etc.). When children are dressed properly the barrier of discomfort is removed, allowing everyone to freely enjoy the outdoor experience.