

Sanctuary Pre-Teen Centre



Covid-19 Health and Safety Plan

COVID-19 HEALTH AND SAFETY POLICY – SUMMARY FOR COMMUNICATION
GENERATION TO GENERATION SOCIETY, LCD

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Preamble

In accordance with the BC ministry of health COVID-19 Public Health Guidance for Childcare Settings, we will be implementing the following procedures:

Understanding Risks

(ref. WorkSafeBC Child care: Protocols for returning to operation; School District 20 safety plan)

The virus that causes COVID-19 spreads in several ways, including through droplets when a person coughs or sneezes, and from touching a contaminated surface before touching the face. The risk of person-to-person transmission is increased the closer you come to other people, the amount of time you spend near them, and the number of people you come near. Physical distancing measures help mitigate this risk.

The risk of surface transmission is increased when many people contact the same surface, and

when those contacts happen in short intervals of time. Effective cleaning and hygiene practices help mitigate this risk.

COVID-19 virus has a very low infection rate in children. Children who are infected with the virus and develop COVID-19 have milder symptoms, if any, and very few become critically ill. Unlike adults, there is no conclusive evidence that children who are asymptomatic pose a risk to other children or adults.

Like adults, children with any common cold, influenza or COVID-19 like symptoms must stay home and seek medical direction.

Controlling access to facility when open

Children allowed inside the centre will be pre-registered and their visits will be according to a preapproved schedule. During early phases of re-opening, Sanctuary will operate with scheduled programming rather than operating as a drop-in centre.

To minimize the number of adults in contact with the children and staff, adult access to the pre-teen centre will be restricted to staff and a small group of necessary adults. Visitors are not permitted access when we are open.

Parents and guardians will be allowed inside for pre-arranged appointments only. During appointments, they will only be given access to the office for conversations with a staff member, and may not use other parts of the centre.

Parents and guardians will be asked to communicate with staff by phone or email whenever possible. Face to face conversations will be kept short.

All adults inside the facility must follow instructions to maintain physical distancing of 6 feet, (2m).

Signs will be posted on our entrance door reminding people not to enter our facility if they are ill or have any cold or flu symptoms that could indicate COVID-19.

Drop-offs and pick-ups

We will be doing drop-offs and pick-ups in the covered front entrance area outside our front door. A staff member will verify safe arrival and pick-up of the children and will be signing children in and out to minimize contact with shared pens.

Parents and guardians will be asked to remain outside during pick-ups and drop-offs. Adults will be asked to practice social distancing by waiting six feet (2m) away from the entrance area if a parent or guardian is already picking up or dropping off a child.

Volunteers

We will be reducing the number of adult volunteers in our space. Volunteers will be in the centre for specific activities requiring their presence only. Volunteers will perform a health self-assessment prior to joining any Sanctuary activity and will stay home if they are ill.

Hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette

Hand Washing

Hand washing will be encouraged with signage, verbal reminders and by the example of adults. Rigorous hand washing with plain soap and water is the single most effective way to reduce the spread of illness.

Each sink will have soap and disposable paper towel beside it. The garbage cans will be placed close to the door. Hand washing reminder posters will be placed near each sink.

Hand sanitizing stations will be installed in close proximity to the main entrance and close to the computer tables, for use when hand washing is not possible. Hand sanitizer will be brought and made available to the children when outdoors.

Respiratory Etiquette while at Sanctuary

Children and staff should:

- Cough or sneeze into their elbow sleeve or a tissue. Throw away used tissues and immediately perform hand hygiene.
- Not touch their eyes, nose or mouth with unwashed hands.

Boxes of tissues will be located in multiple places throughout Sanctuary so that they are readily available.

Illness in a Child or Staff Member

In typical years, it is not uncommon for children and staff to have influenza or other respiratory viruses with symptoms similar to COVID-19. For this reason, all children and staff who are ill with fever or infectious respiratory symptoms of any kind need to stay home.

Signage to remind people not to enter the facility if they are sick will be posted at the facility entrances.

Daily Child Health Screening

Parents and guardians are expected to do daily health checks on their children and not send them to Sanctuary if they are ill. Children will not be able to attend Sanctuary if they have any cold or flu symptoms, such as runny nose, persistent cough, or fever.

Children who arrive ill or develop symptoms at Sanctuary

We are not allowed to keep children on-site when they are sick.

If they arrive ill or become ill while at Sanctuary, children will be isolated in a designated area of the office where they can rest while awaiting pick up. A staff member will supervise the child while they are waiting.

Parents will be advised as soon as possible that their child is ill and must be picked up. Parents must provide contact information for an emergency contact that is available to pick up and care for their child in the event of illness. When parents are unable to pick up their child in a timely manner, or we are unable to reach them, we will phone the emergency contact for pickup.

Once sent home, we will require approval from a medical professional, (a note from a doctor or public health nurse), indicating that the child is cleared to return to Sanctuary before they may

attend again.

Children with proven allergies or other reasons for sneezes and or coughs will be granted exceptions based on directions from a medical professional.

Daily Staff Health screening

All staff must assess themselves daily for symptoms of common cold, influenza, or COVID-19 prior to entering Sanctuary. If they are ill, they will stay home and not come into Sanctuary. Staff who become ill while at Sanctuary will isolate, as much as possible, while waiting for a replacement worker and go home.

Masks and PPE

We do not recommend the use of masks at Sanctuary, which is better for creating a positive child environment. Staff will have masks on hand for covering up if we become sick and have to wait for a replacement, or if we are caring for an ill child whose symptoms pose increased risk of transmission.

Cleaning and Disinfection

(ref COVID-19 Public Health Guidance for Child Care Settings May 19, 2020)

Sanctuary Pre-teen Centre will be cleaned and disinfected in accordance with the BC Centre for Disease Control's Cleaning and Disinfectants for Public Settings document. This includes:

- General cleaning and disinfecting of the centre at least once a day.
- Cleaning and disinfecting frequently-touched surfaces at least twice a day.
- All detergents and disinfectant products will follow the BCCDC Cleaning and Disinfectants for Public Settings guidance document.

If a worker or child leaves Sanctuary due to symptoms of COVID-19, the areas those individuals were in, and surfaces they may have touched, will be cleaned immediately upon their departure.

We have removed unnecessary items from the workplace to reduce surfaces that could become contaminated.

Physical Distancing and Minimizing Physical Interaction

Our requirements for physical distancing by children are based on the current safety information available, with consideration for maintaining a happy environment for the children. Our emphasis will be on limiting physical contact, which is a regular policy the children are already used to.

We will establish different expectations based on age and/or developmental readiness. Younger children will be supported to have minimized direct contact with one another, while older children should be supported to maintain physical distance whenever possible.

Children from the same household do not need to maintain physical distance from each other.

Staff and adults should maintain physical distancing of 2 meters from one another.

We will monitor common areas and reduce the number of people in any space at one time.

Arrival procedure

Children will be greeted at the door and signed in by a staff member.

Children will be asked to use hand sanitizer on their arrival. They will then put away their possessions and change to indoor shoes. We have increased the area for personal items with physical distancing in mind.

Children will be reminded of our safety protocols through the use of signs and verbal cues by staff.

Children will bring clean indoor shoes or slippers for wearing at Sanctuary. Bare feet or outdoor shoes will not be allowed. Space will be designated for children's outdoor footwear and clothing. We will no longer be loaning slippers. New socks will still be available to replace wet ones when needed.

Modifications to Space

We have modified our room and furniture configurations to promote distancing.

We have replaced our large dining and craft table with multiple smaller tables. This promotes small group environments to reduce the number of children in a group. For example, multiple areas will be used for colouring or doing crafts rather than grouping everyone onto our large table.

We have added a new play area in the room that was our bottle room, (our refundable container fundraiser has been relocated to a space outside Sanctuary)

Modifications to Activities

We will strive to minimize the number of different staff that interact with the same children throughout the day.

Whenever possible, children will be organized into smaller groups and/or spread out to minimize direct physical contact.

We will allow younger children to interact in small groups with encouragement to use distancing. We will plan activities and games to reduce frequency of physical contact and get outside as much as possible.

For adolescent children, (gd. 6 to 12), we will lessen group activities and limit activities that require physical contact. Older children should try to follow social distancing.

For all children, we will adapt group activities to minimize physical contact and reduce shared items. We will offer more individual activities or activities that encourage more space between children and staff. We will continue to offer books, individual games, video and online programs as a part of learning so children can sit independently and distanced from each other.

All toys, games and activities will be modified to encourage individual play. We have removed some of the games and toys that promote sharing of items and grouping close together.

Food Service

All food service and kitchen standards will continue to follow Foodsafe level 1 protocols.

During the first stage of our re-opening we will not offer hot meals and our regular snacks will be modified. We will slowly reintroduce food and drinks in a staggered manner once the children and staff are comfortable with the safety protocols we have in place.

When meals are re-introduced:

- All food will be provided directly to children in pre-portioned individual servings.
- There will be no common serving utensils or trays
- We will not allow sharing of food or drink by workers or children.
- Parent and guardian provided food items and containers will be stored with the child's belongings.
- We will continue to clean and sanitize all reusable dishware, glasses and utensils after each use. Food-safe kitchen protocols will continue to be used.
- Acceptance of food donations will be limited and follow protocols.

Other methods to control risk

We will limit the sharing of supplies and equipment (e.g., pens, telephone, tablets, computer mouse) between children as well as between adult staff.

We will provide an adequate amounts of high touch materials, such as art supplies, in order to minimize sharing between children.

Children's belongings will be stored separately. We plan to add cubbies or open lockers when possible.

We will not allow sharing of personal items. Personal items should be labelled with the child's name to prevent accidental sharing.

We will ensure adequate ventilation and open windows whenever possible.

We will take children outside whenever possible, including for play time, snack time, and activities.