



August 27, 2020

Dear Families,

YPCE is reopening Before and After School programs on September 8, 2020!

We wanted to advise our families on the processes they can expect as we reopen. As we prepare; we are working within guidelines provided by the Ministry of Education and respective school board requirements. For further information, families may refer to our website for the Infectious Disease and Pandemic Policy re: Covid-19. Parents may also refer to their respective school website for staggered start schedules.

Continued Communication

Our families shall be made aware of any updates regarding Covid-19 and how it may affect our service delivery. Notification of case exposures will be made using a combination of phone call, email and signage. Electronic correspondence and one to one engagement using social distancing and signage on COVID-19 specific information will be visible at designated drop off locations. Look for signage re: current news, respiratory and hand hygiene, physical distancing, self-monitoring and PPE.

Licensing Requirements

All traditional licensing requirements as well as new guidelines for COVID-19 have been met. All educators have been trained on YPCE Infectious Disease and Pandemic Policy re: COVID-19 and use of PPE.

Health and Safety Protocols

To mitigate the spread of illness, the use of public health measures continues to be in place and are now followed in keeping with school board operations surrounding COVID-19.

Daily Health Screening

- Active and passive health screens shall be conducted on all individuals including children, employees, parents/guardians, and visitors each day before entering the program.
- These screens include a temperature check and a series of questions that address the health status of the child's household.
- Health screens may take up to 10 minutes and families are asked to plan accordingly.
- An individual that has been screened prior to the before school program or core day program, would not need to be re-screened for the after-school program.
- Protocols are in place to allow for communication between school and Before and After school providers regarding screening.
- An isolation room is identified for each site.
- As per Public Health and the Ministry of Education, a child shall not enter the program, when any member of the household answers YES, to any of the questions or symptoms on the screen.

Cleaning and Disinfection

- School boards are required to ensure that the classrooms used for before and after school programs are cleaned and disinfected after the core day program ends, and the Before and After school program begins.
- Scheduling of outdoor play may be required during the time that the cleaning and disinfecting of rooms takes place.

Physical Distancing

When in the same common space (e.g., entrances, hallways) physical distancing of at least 2 metres shall be maintained between different groups and shall be encouraged, where possible, between children within the same group. Some strategies include:

- spreading children out into different areas, particularly at snack and dressing time;
- incorporating more individual activities or activities that encourage more space between children;
- using visual cues to promote physical distancing.

In shared outdoor space, a distance of at least 2 metres shall be maintained between groups and any other individuals outside of the group at all times. Shared spaces and structures that cannot be cleaned and disinfected between groups will not be used. Some strategies include:

- planning activities that do not involve shared objects or toys;
- moving activities outside to allow for more space;
- avoiding singing activities indoors.

Hand and Respiratory Etiquette

- These public health measures have always been practiced and will continue. Signage and modelling will reinforce the benefits of the practice for the children.

Personal Protective Equipment

PPE is on hand for our educators and they have been trained on its' use.

- Educators are required to wear a medical mask and eye protection, i.e. face shield, while indoors.
- Children in grade 4 and higher, are required to wear a cloth or non-medical mask while indoors.
- The wearing of non-medical or cloth masks indoors is encouraged for younger school aged children, particularly in common spaces.
- The use of masks is not required outdoors for adults or children if physical distancing of a least 2-metres can be maintained between individuals.
- Reasonable exceptions to the requirement to wear masks indoors could include circumstances where a physical distance of at least 2 metres can be maintained between individuals, situations where a child cannot tolerate wearing a mask, reasonable expectations for medical conditions, etc.

Food Preparation

Snacks normally provided during our programs shall continue through our catering service.

Program Routines

Arrival and Departure

- Hours of operation have not changed.
- Drop off and pickup will take place outdoors. Allow time for the Health Screen assessment.
- One educator dressed in full personal protective equipment shall screen families.

- With a clear Health Screen, the educator shall escort the child into the program.
- Only children, educators and essential visitors are permitted in the school/program.
- A site may have more than one entry point, i.e.: kindergarten doors for kinder groups and other entry doors for primary-junior groups.

Indoor and Outdoor Play

- Children will interact only within their group.
- Outdoor play will continue to be our preferred choice for activity time.

Washrooms

- As before COVID-19, children requiring the use of a washroom, shall access the washroom using the “buddy system”.

Enhanced Health and Safety Measures

- If a child becomes symptomatic of COVID-19 while in program, they will be isolated with supervision until picked up. Parents must pick-up the ill child and any sibling immediately.
- Testing should be considered and will be directed by the Public Health Unit. Full measures are outlined in the policy.
- If a parent cannot be contacted or cannot pick up immediately, the emergency contact is called. Ensure that the emergency contact is aware of all COVID-19 measures for physical distancing, hand hygiene and self-monitoring.

We look forward to your return and thank you for your ongoing support and patience as we transition back. For any further information please contact your Supervisor.

Sincerely,

Shirley Black

Executive Director