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### **Covid-19 Policy**

The health and safety of each child is the up most important for Little Hands Learning Center Ltd. Parents/caregivers and staff must work together to ensure the health and wellbeing of both the children and staff. Some of our policies & procedures have temporary changed. ALL families MUST adhere to these policies/procedures to ensure everyone's safety and we stop the spread of Covid-19. We take all our direction from Vancouver Island Health and the B.C. Provincial Health Officer. These policies are based on the COVID-19 PUBLIC HEALTH GUIDANCE FOR CHILD CARE SETTINGS. This is the best way to ensure the health and safety for all the children and families. As we receive new information, these policies are subject to change as this is a **living document**.

Childcare/preschools are regulated through the Ministry of Child and Family and during the duration of the pandemic if Little Hands Learning Center Ltd has an exposure event, we MAY be mandated by Vancouver Island Health to close for the duration of up to 14 days.

Families with members who are vulnerable may wish to consult with a health care professional to assess the risk that is associated with their child attending a preschool group setting. Parents who choose to enroll their child in Little Hands Learning Center Ltd except the risk of **potential** exposure to Covid 19 through other children and their contacts.

**Parents and children who are symptomatic MUST not enter the preschool at any time.**

## **COVID-19 SYMPTOMS**

Please keep your child home if they are showing any of these symptoms

- Coughing
- Constant runny nose
- Sore throat
- Fatigue
- Fever 100F/37.8 C

If your child is showing any of the above symptoms, they are not to attend preschool under any circumstances. If your child has seasonal allergies and displays some of the above symptoms, please provide a doctor's note from your family doctor. All allergy symptoms must be resolved by medication for at least 24 hours before returning to preschool.

All existing Little Hands Learning Center Ltd health policies are still in effect.

To ensure the health and safety of everyone, there will be no exception to these symptoms. If symptoms persist, please consult with your doctor or 811 for further instructions. Children will not be permitted back into preschool until ALL symptoms have resolved. This may take up to 10 days. Children MUST be symptom free for 24hrs unmedicated before they can return to preschool.

### **Daily child and staff check**

It is the parents/care givers responsibility to assess your child each and every day for any symptoms of common cold, influenza, COVID-19, or other infectious respiratory disease before sending them for childcare.

If any parents, caregivers, children/family members of children and staff who have tested positive for COVID-19 must stay home and self-isolate until the for the prescribed incubation period is over. If you are unsure if you need to self-isolate, please check the BCCDC website for more information.

A child may, at Little Hands Learning Center Ltd discretion, attend preschool if they have been exposed to Covid 19 but would be appreciated if they were kept home. If any member of your household has tested positive for Covid-19 or is required to isolate, then your child is not able to attend preschool for five days.

## **Children who are ill are not be permitted to attend preschool classes.**

Parents are required to assess their children each morning before class begins for any signs or symptoms of Covid-19. If a parent or staff member is unsure if they or a child should self-isolate, they should be directed to use the BC COVID-19 Self-Assessment Tool, contact 811 or the local public health unit. They can also be advised to contact a family physician to be assessed for COVID-19 and other respiratory diseases.

If any children display any signs or symptoms of Covid-19 while at preschool, parents will be notified immediately to pick up your child.

Staff must assess themselves daily for symptoms of common cold, influenza, or COVID-19 prior to working and stay home if they are ill.

### **Traveling Outside of Canada**

All parents must inform the preschool of international travel. Failure to do so may result in immediate termination. Parents and children are required to follow the Federal Travel Requirements for international travel. Failure to do so may result in immediate termination. If families have traveled outside the country, please continue to diligently monitor your child for any signs or symptoms of Covid -19. Parents/caregivers and children who have traveled outside the country need to wear a mask to preschool for drop off and the duration of class time. This is to protect all the preschool families and staff. Staff will also follow the same policy for international travel.

### **Preschool Closures and Sick Days**

In the event that I am too ill to provide classes or have a family emergency and I am unable to find appropriate and qualified coverage; Parents will be notified of a preschool closure. In the event that my symptoms are in line with COVID-19 symptoms, and I test positive, classes would be cancelled, and we would need to close for a minimum five-day period or given length determined by Medical Health Authorities. ALL parents would be notified immediately of a positive test result. If the test comes back negative, classes will resume once my symptoms subside.

### **Entry into preschool:**

At this time, ALL adults are required to remain outside the preschool. Please stay in your vehicle until 5 minutes before the preschool opens. All children are required to wash their hands upon entering the preschool. If a child is

struggling, the parent is welcome to stay to help their child settle in, but only if absolutely necessary. IF a parent MUST enter the preschool they will need to wait until all other families have left. Parent/guardians must wash their hands upon entry, in addition to the children washing their hands upon arrival, they will also be required to wash their hands before snack time, after coughing or sneezing into their “cough pocket”, after playing with sensory items and before they leave preschool.

**Sign in/out** Miss Tricia will sign your child in/out each day.

**Hand washing:** All children will be required to wash their hands upon entry of the preschool, before eating snack, after using the washroom, anytime bodily fluid has touched their hands.

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