

# LICENSING'S LATEST CHILD CARE NEWSLETTER



Community Care Facilities Licensing

Spring 2019

## Message from the Regional Manager

It is an exciting time for Child Care in the Province of British Columbia. The Community Care Facilities Licensing Program continues to collaborate with licensees and community partners to ensure licensed community care facilities in the Island Health region protect and promote the health, safety and dignity of children in care. Since September 2018, summaries of all routine inspections, investigations of substantiated complaints, and operations in contravention to the *Community Care Assisted Living Act* are posted on Island Health's website.

Throughout the region, Licensing Officers facilitate monthly information sessions and participate in community activities such as the Early Years, Active Play and Safe Kids. Beginning in May — just in time for Child Care Month, a new pilot project regarding Schedule G of the Child Care Regulations will begin in the Cowichan Valley. Over the next two years specific attention will be given to enhancing programming in licensed child care facilities.

Licensing is looking forward to working with you as partners in compliance and supporting the growth and development of the Provincial Government's Child Care Plan. I can be reached at 250.816.5267 or by email at [shelley.mcclure@viha.ca](mailto:shelley.mcclure@viha.ca) if you would like to connect.

I look forward to hearing from you, until then, please take care.

[Shelley McClure](#), EdD, MA, CEC, CAM, BGS, ECE



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## Appetite to Play — Physical Literacy

Appetite to Play is an interactive online resource available to early years providers to promote and encourage physical activity and healthy eating. The resource offers:

- Healthy eating and physical activity self-assessment and planning tools, tips, recipes, games and activities.
- An online community for early years providers to connect and share ideas and successes around physical activity and healthy eating in the early years.
- Training opportunities including regional training workshops and physical literacy and food literacy e-learning modules.

Appetite to Play can be found at <https://www.appetitetoplay.com/>



## Safety of Sunscreen Products



Health Canada (2018) released their summary safety review regarding sunscreen and concluded that there are no new safety concerns with sunscreen. How are you using sunscreen in your facility? With spring here, please review your safety and sunscreen policies. For more information about Safety of Sunscreen, please go to: <https://hpr-rps.hres.ca/reg-content/summary-safety-review-detail.php?lang=en&linkID=SSR00211>

## Playpens Regulations Update

Health Canada's new *Playpens Regulations* has come into force. As of April 3, 2019, products manufactured, sold, advertised or imported in Canada must comply with the new *Playpens Regulations*. Prior to April 3, 2019, playpens must continue to meet the current *Playpens Regulations*. Playpens that were manufactured prior to April 3, 2019 may only be sold after April 3, 2019 if they are compliant to the new *Playpens Regulations*.



General information about the Playpens Regulations. Health Canada published the new Playpens Regulations in the Canada Gazette, Part II (<http://gazette.gc.ca/rp-pr/p2/2018/2018-10-03/html/sor-dors186-eng.html>).



# INCIDENT REPORTING TO COMMUNITY CARE FACILITIES LICENSING - SERVICE DELIVERY PROBLEM



Child Care Licensing Regulation Section 55 (2)(a) requires the Licensee to report to Licensing within 24 hours after a child is involved in, or may have been involved in, a reportable incident as described in Schedule H while under the care or supervision of the Licensee.

Child Care Licensing Regulation Schedule H defines “service delivery problem” as any condition or event which could be reasonable expected to impair the ability of the Licensee or his or her employees to provide care, or which affects the health, safety and well-being of children.

Scheduled closures where advance notice is provided to families would not be considered reportable to Licensing. Examples of a scheduled closure may include: (a) Planned vacation, (b) Surgery, or (c) Painting or repairs to the licensed facility necessitating closure.

In the Summer of 2018 there were many wild fires and a higher volume of smoke throughout British Columbia. Poor air quality advisories were issued and Licensing received inquiries from Licensees wondering if air quality would be considered a reportable incident related to “service delivery problem”. A “service delivery problem” should be interpreted as any occurrence that may impact care provision such that the facility had to close unexpectedly.

In the case where the Licensee has clearly stated in their policy the steps the facility follows related to extreme weather conditions, this would not be reportable to Licensing because the facility was not expected to be operating that day. However, the Licensee must be clear what the circumstances are – for example, if the school closes, the child care facility will also be closed.

It is reasonable to assume that poor air quality due to environmental smoke, that impacts the Licensee’s ability to ensure compliance with requirements of the Director of Licensing Standard of Practice - Active Play, is reportable to Licensing identifying a service delivery problem as children’s health would be impacted if the Licensee/employees took the children in care outside. In addition, Licensees and Managers should document in their non-reportable incident or facility log book when Active Play was not offered due to the air quality advisories. Through documentation, Licensees can demonstrate what alternative options for Active Play were provided on any given day.

The purpose of incident reporting is to ensure that incidents are reported and reviewed in a timely manner, both within a facility and by the Community Care Facility Licensing Officers, to assist in the prevention of recurrence of the incident and in the promotion of a high standard of care.

Incident Reporting ensures that Licensing has an opportunity to:

- Assess what occurred while children were in care and the effects on them (if any).
- Alert Licensing to what occurred at the facility in order to complete follow-up.
- Keep track of incidents for statistical purposes, etc.

Licensees are encouraged to submit reportable incidents to Licensing electronically and directions can be found at: <https://www.islandhealth.ca/our-services/community-care-facilities-licensing/incident-reporting>

Licensees are encouraged to contact their Licensing Officers if they have questions about Incident Reporting.



## Community Care Facilities Licensing



In the province of British Columbia there is legislation to protect and promote the health, safety, and well-being of vulnerable children, youth, adults and seniors in licensed community care facilities.

The rules and guidelines for licensed community care facilities are found in the [Community Care and Assisted Living Act](#), [Child Care Licensing Regulation](#) and [Residential Care Regulation](#) and in the Director of Licensing Standards of Practice.

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## COMMUNITY CARE FACILITIES LICENSING PROGRAM WEBSITE REDESIGN

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Check out Island Health's updated website and the [Community Care Facilities Licensing Program's webpage](#). The webpage is user-friendly and with a click of a link you will be able to locate information with ease.

You will find links to the legislation: [Community Care and Assisted Living Act](#), and the [Child Care Licensing Regulations](#), as well as a [Child Care Map](#) of facilities in British Columbia.

There are 15 separate links: (a) [Community Care Facilities Licensing](#), (b) [Residential Care Licensing](#), (c) [Child Care Licensing](#), (d) [Choosing a Facility](#), (e) [Community Care Facilities Inspection FAQs](#), (f) [Complaints & FAQs](#), (g) [Contact a Licensing Officer](#), (h) [Incident Reporting](#), (i) [Inspection Reports](#), (j) [Operations in Contravention of the Community Care and Assisted Living Act](#), (k) [Resources](#), and (l) [Risk Assessments in Community Care Facilities & FAQs](#).

# Frequently Asked Questions and Responses

**Q:** Can a child in my care under the age of two years be offered screen time in my child care facility?

**A:** No. The Director of Licensing Standard of Practice - Active Play states that all licensed child care programs must limit screen time (TV, computer, electronic games) to 30 minutes or less a day.

- Programs where children are in attendance for 3 hours or less should not include screen time activities into the daily routine.
- Screen time is not offered to children under two years of age.

**Q:** Can I grow cannabis in an outbuilding on my child care facility's property where the children do not have access?

**A:** No. Individuals are prohibited from growing cannabis plants in a greenhouse at the back of a property subject to a licence under the Child Care Licensing Regulation, even if children do not have access.

- The Canadian Federal *Cannabis Act* defines dwelling house is to include all of the following: all or part of a building occupied as a residence, the land contiguous with the building, and any outbuildings or structures on the land.
- Under the British Columbia provincial *Cannabis Control and Licensing Act*, it is prohibited to grow cannabis plants (medical or non-medical plants) at a dwelling house that is licensed under the Child Care Licensing Regulation.



## Community Care Facilities Licensing Contact Information

### South Island

#201-771 Vernon Ave (Gateway Village), Victoria, BC V8X 5A7, PH: 250.519.3401, FAX: 250.519.3402

### Central Island

#29-1925 Bowen Road, Nanaimo BC, V9S 1H1, PH: 250.739.5800, FAX: 250.740.2675

2041 Tzouhalem Road, Duncan BC, PH: 250.737.2000 Ext: 44669, FAX: 250.740.2675

### North Island

#200-1100 Island Highway, Campbell River, BC V9W 8C6, PH: 250.850.2110, FAX: 250.850.2455

355 – 11th Street, Courtenay, BC V9N 1S4, PH: 250.331.8620, FAX: 250.331.8596

### South Island Orientation Sessions

Child Care Information Sessions for Family Child Care Applicants are available on Saturday mornings. Manager Information Sessions for Prospective and New Managers of Group Child Care Facilities (including Group Child Care – School Age) are held monthly. Contact 250-519-3401 to inquire and register for the next session.

### Central and North Island Orientation Sessions

For information regarding the Child Care Licensing Information Sessions or the Manager Information Sessions for Prospective and New Managers of Group Child Care Facilities (including Group Child Care – School Age), please contact 250-739-5800 to inquire and register.