

# LICENSING'S LATEST CHILD CARE NEWSLETTER



Community Care Facilities Licensing

Fall 2020

## Message from the Regional Manager

I hope despite the disruption caused by COVID-19, you were able to find some solace in the spectacular summer weather in the Island Health Region. I'm continuously reminded of how privileged we are to live in such a beautiful place. As we traverse fall, please continue to abide by the [Orders](#) of Dr. Bonnie Henry, Provincial Health Officer and the [BC Centre of Disease Control](#).

We are now into September and our world continues to change due to the pandemic. It has been a time of fluid information, small and large iterations on how we meet the mandate of the program, and enact recommendations to keep all persons safe and well. Please continue to reach out to your licensing officer to provide you with guidance and support on how to operate your facility in compliance with the legislation and recommendations from Dr. Henry and our Medical Health Officers.

Margaret Wheatley (2020) encourages us in this unprecedented time to develop resiliency by creating islands of sanity which are made up of quality relationships, meaningful actions and accountability. Scholars suggest being resilient, individually, professionally, and as a community partner is foundational at this time (Brown, 2020; Clark, 2020, Wheatley, 2020). This means having the ability to rebound in times of challenge and change. On a scale of one to ten, with one not rebounding well and ten being very resilient where would you place yourself? Enacting resiliency capabilities includes qualities such as patience, courage, compassion, persistence and open-heartedness. It is a time of being in service and to lead from where you stand.

I continue to be inspired by the work ethic, positive attitude, and can-do spirit of licensees, facility operators and community partners in the Island Health region. I know colleagues in the CCFL program are busy working on applications, amendments, exemptions, conducting inspections, investigations and providing consultation. We have moved to a six day model and are open from 7:00 am to 5:00 pm to serve you better.

A mark of resiliency is how we continue to push forward on so many fronts even while dealing with the pandemic. I am grateful to each of you for your contributions to protecting vulnerable populations. I look forward to the CCFL team continuing to work with you to ensure the health, safety and well-being of persons in licensed care.

Sincerely,

Shelley

Shelley McClure, EdD, MA, CEC, CAM, BGS, ECE

### In This Issue

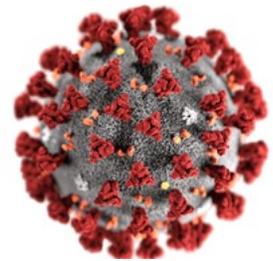
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# Navigating Covid-19 In our Communities & Remaining Vigilant

by Louise Oliphant | Child Care Licensing Officer

As we reflect on the experience of flattening the curve at the start of the pandemic, and in anticipation of the upcoming influenza season, now is the time to consider our experiences as we prepare to move forward in our 'new normal'.



## Considerations for preparing your facility:

- Do any policies or posters need updating?
- Do you need to refine arrival / departure strategies for bad weather?
- Do you need to refine the entrance way or cubby room layouts to minimize indoor congestion and also accommodate more winter clothes?
- Does the daily program of activities need to be updated?
- Do cleaning schedules or routines need updating?
- Do you have adequate cleaning supplies, soap, paper towels, gloves, and hand sanitizer?

## Continuing activities:

- Encourage staff to continue assessing themselves daily.
- Encourage parents to assess themselves and their children before arriving.
- Promptly send staff and children home if they show symptoms during the day.
- Practice appropriate physical distancing, respiratory etiquette, and hand washing.
- Clean high touch surfaces often throughout the day.

Additional information can be found in the BCCDC publication: "[COVID-19 Public Health Guidance for Child Care Settings](#)"



## The BC COVID-19 Support App

Stay informed with the COVID-19 Support App where health and safety recommendations are personalized and based on your own risk factors. Download it from the Google or Apple app stores to receive timely updates with important news and alerts from BC's Ministry of Health. Recommendations and content are automatically updated based on the latest BC COVID-19 guidelines.

# Face to Face Routine Inspections

## Keeping Licensees & Licensing Officers Safe

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Licensing briefly suspended conducting on-site inspections at facilities in March 2020. The following month, Licensing introduced virtual inspections to ensure the health and safety of children who attended daycare. As BC moved into Phase 3 of BC's Restart Plan, Licensing resumed on-site inspections at facilities.

### What to Expect

- ◇ Licensing will call you in advance to schedule the inspection. One day prior to the inspection, Licensing will call to review the COVID-19 Pre-Inspection Screening Checklist.
- ◇ If all questions are answered "No", then the inspection can proceed. If any questions are answered "yes", then the facility will be referred to the BCCDC and the inspection will be rescheduled.
- ◇ Licensing will limit the number of onsite inspections to two per day and limit the time they are on-site at the facility.
- ◇ Licensing will collect as much current information from the facility prior to an on-site inspection (i.e. current policies).
- ◇ Licensing will follow the facility's COVID-19 screening and prevention policies.
- ◇ Licensing will follow precautions prior, during, and after inspections including wearing personal protective equipment, washing hands or using sanitizer, and practicing physical distancing measures (i.e. two metres).
- ◇ Licensing will limit items carried into the facility (i.e. clipboard, checklist, pen, iPhone, and measuring devices) in order to minimize the risk of transmission.
- ◇ Licensing will write the inspection report at their office, and will later review it by phone with the Licensee. The Licensee will be asked to send an email confirming they reviewed the findings of the inspection report, and a paper copy will be mailed.

If you have any questions or concerns, please speak to your Licensing Officer.

By Louise Oliphant | Child Care Licensing Officer

## DATES TO REMEMBER



October 10, 2020



October 15, 2020



November 20, 2020



[Appetite to Play](https://www.appetitetoplay.com/) Appetite to Play offers on line courses on Nutrition and Physical Literacy. Their link is: <https://www.appetitetoplay.com/>.

### Expiry and Renewal of ECE certificates

Section 30(6)(b) of the Child Care Licensing Regulation requires that Early Childhood Educators (ECEs) complete within 5 years of being issued their ECE certificate at least 40 hours of professional development relevant to early childhood education.

For Responsible Adults it is a good idea to continue with workshops and courses relevant to childcare as practices change. It's always a positive to be refreshed with new ideas and approaches when working with children.

By Mary Jane Kellington  
Child Care Licensing Officer



## ORDER IN COUNCIL

No. 294

Effective June 1, 2020, changes were made to the Child Care Licensing Regulation.

- \* Changes have been made to prohibit the cultivation of cannabis in households that operate as licensed child care facilities.
- \* The first aid requirements in the Child Care Licensing Regulation are being updated.
- \* Changes have been made in child care to allow a child to enter a child care program if they are within one month of ageing into that care program type, with the exception of Group Child Care (School Age). This change allows for children to attend the program without the licensee requesting an exemption from the health authority licensing program (medical health officer). Exemptions for these earlier entries were typically approved as there was no increased risk to the health of safety of the children in care.
- \* The requirement for a local fire assistant to approve a fire drill plan has been removed.
- \* Limited Liability Partnerships (LLPs) are now prohibited from becoming licensees of child care facilities.

For the full version of the Order in Council, please visit [https://www.bclaws.ca/civix/document/id/oic/oic\\_cur/0294\\_2020](https://www.bclaws.ca/civix/document/id/oic/oic_cur/0294_2020)

“The simple act of caring is heroic”

~Edward Albert

## Early Learning Framework

The Province of British Columbia is providing online professional development training about the B.C Early Learning Framework.

The goals of the course are to help you understand and begin to implement

- \* the Principles of Early Learning;
- \* a pedagogy of listening, critical reflection, collaborative dialogue and pedagogical narration to enhance learning; and
- \* the Living inquiries.

The course consists of six modules and three assessments. If you complete all three parts of the assessment, you will earn a total of eight professional development hours.

Please visit <https://mytrainingbc.ca/ELF/index.html#about> for more information.

By Krista Merriman  
Child Care Licensing Officer



## To Sleep or Not to Sleep?

By Linda Mellish  
Child Care Licensing Officer

If you provide care to children ages 3 years old to 5 years old, this question is a hot topic!

In past years it was an accepted practice for all children to nap or to at least 'rest' their bodies. Early Childhood Educators were trained that children needed down time in the midst of a busy day to rejuvenate their bodies and calm their minds. Many children did sleep, sometimes for upward of two

hours but those that did not sleep were still required to lay on mats to reap all of the benefits of 'rest'.

Current research looking at traditional nap times in licensed care facilities tell us that this old school approach is no longer best practice. The facts:

- By age four, most children will have moved into mature monophasic sleep and no longer require a day-time nap.
- Continued daytime napping is directly linked to later bed times, more night awakenings and less overall sleep in 24 hours – No wonder they are tired when they come to daycare!
- Less sleep affects children the same way it affects adults; poor coping skills, poor decision-making skills and less energy.
- Child Care Licensing Regulations do not require children to nap or 'rest' on mats.
- Supporting preschool age children that are moving into or have reached mature monophasic sleep to develop self-regulation skills by being allowed to make individual choices about 'rest' is developmentally appropriate.

As you aspire to create a rich child care environment for the children in your care, the new Early Learning Framework challenges educators to reflect on, and evaluate their programs and ask "is each child's preferences for sleep ... recognized and responded to" (B.C. Ministry of Education, p. 47), while they are in your care?

### Supporting Children in Stressful Times

As the fall season approaches, Licensing wants to recognize the impact the pandemic is having on our children and remind Licensees of the support that is available to help minimize stress for children in licensed child care facilities.

- Anxiety Canada (2020) - [Learn about Anxiety](#)
- BC Centre for Disease Control (2020) - [Childcare & Schools](#)
- Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (2020) - [Stress and Coping](#)
- Child Mind Institute (2020) - [Supporting Kids During the COVID Crisis & Stress and Resilience](#)
- Foundry BC (2020) - [Tips for When the New Stress You Out](#)
- Government of British Columbia (2020) - [Ministry of Children & Family Development Response to COVID-19](#)
- Government of Canada (2020) - [Responding to Stressful Events & Helping Children Cope](#)
- HealthLink BC (2020) - [Mental Health](#)
- World Health Organization - [Helping children cope with stress during the 2019-nCoV outbreak](#)



# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

**Q: If a child lives with a person with confirmed COVID-19, can the child still attend child care?**

**A:** No. People who live with a confirmed COVID-19 case will have been asked by public health officials to self-isolate at home, and cannot return to child care until approved by public health.

**Q: What should staff and children do if they get sick while at home?**

**A:** Use the self-assessment tool at <http://bc.thrive.health> or call 8-1-1 to assess symptoms and determine if testing is required. Staff, if diagnosed with COVID-19, must be excluded from work and stay home for a minimum of 10 days from the onset of symptoms, until their symptoms improve and they no longer have a fever. Staff with COVID-19 cannot return to work until allowed by public health. Parents or caregivers must keep their sick child at home until they are assessed by a health care provider.

**Q: Is there a risk to looking after children of health care workers who work with COVID-19 patients?**

**A:** There is no evidence that children of health care workers (HCWs) are at increased risk of COVID-19 infection than children of non-HCWs. This is likely due to precautions used in the healthcare environment as well as careful monitoring of HCWs for symptoms and follow-up of their household contacts.

**Q: Is a doctor's note required when symptoms of a common cold, influenza or COVID-19 or other infectious respiratory diseases are present in children in child care?**

**A:** [COVID-19 Public Health Guidance for Child Care Settings](#) does not state that a note is required; however, it does state that "Child care services are encouraged to update their policies for children or staff who have symptoms of a common cold, influenza or COVID-19 or other infectious respiratory diseases to remain at home. Children or staff may return to the centre once they are assessed by their family physician or nurse practitioner and it is determined that they do NOT have COVID-19, and their symptoms have resolved." It also references using the BC COVID-19 Self assessment tool to see if someone should be tested. No child or staff should be at the day care if they have symptoms. Most people should be utilizing the self assessment tool before they contact their physician. You can access the tool at <https://www.thrive.health/bc-self-assessment-tool>.

**Q: My daycare told me that Island Health is mandating that sick kids stay home for 14 days – even if they receive a negative swab for COVID-19. I understand keeping my child home when they're ill, but if all kids with colds have to stay home for 14 days, we'll run out of staff.**

**A:** Our expectation is that if a child is symptomatic, they should stay home and get tested for COVID-19. If a child tests negative for COVID-19, they will need to stay home until their acute symptoms decrease (wet/loose cough, fever, sneezing) – but a 10+ day isolation period is not necessary. If a child tests positive for COVID-19, then they are required to stay home for a minimum of 10 days from when they first notice symptoms. If your child does test positive, our public health team will advise you on the next steps. If you are cleared to attend work, you must connect with your Leader first and adhere to the following precautions:

- Self-monitor daily for signs and symptoms of illness;
- Wear a surgical mask at all times and in all areas of your workplace;
- Follow IPAC protocols including diligent hand hygiene and the use of personal protective equipment when delivering patient care;
- Reduce close contact with other health care workers and avoid shared spaces where possible;
- Avoid close contact with others when travelling to and from work and between shifts; and
- Self-isolate at home on days when not required at work.

Employees are often required to stay at home to care for a sick child and we encourage all parents to have a plan in place for child care. If it is not possible to arrange alternate child care, we ask staff to speak with their leaders should they need to stay at home. Employees can request vacation leave for this time off, or another form of leave, depending on their Collective Agreement.



## Child Care Resources

- **BC Centre for Disease Control COVID –19** found at <http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19>
- **Canadian Pediatric Society** found at <https://www.cps.ca/en/tools-outils/covid-19-information-and-resources-for-paediatricians>
- **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention** found at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/guidance-for-childcare.html>
- **Government of Canada Coronavirus disease (COVID-19)** found at <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/coronavirus-disease-covid-19.html>
- **Island Health Covid-19** found at <https://www.islandhealth.ca/learn-about-health/covid-19>
- **Ministry of Children & Family Development to COVID-19** found at <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/family-social-supports/covid-19-information>

## LICENSING BACK TO SIX DAYS A WEEK

Monday - Saturday | 7:00am - 5:00pm

### Community Care Facilities Licensing

**South Island (Gateway Village)**

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