



COVID-19 PLAN

Wee Kare Preschool

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Wee Kare Preschool's Plan	1
Preventative Measures	1
At the School	2
Cleaning Protocols	2
COVID-19 Symptoms	3
Response to COVID-19 Symptoms	3
Returning to School After Symptoms	4
Confirmed Cases	4
Alert Status	4
Outbreak Status	4
Public Reporting	5
Important Note About School Closure	5
Outbreak Over	5

Wee Kare Preschool's Plan

Preventative Measures

- **We Need To Work Together:** Children/teachers must stay home if they are sick. Parents should not enter the building if they are sick. Parents must wear a mask at all times in the building.
- **Capping Enrollment:** The school enrollment has been capped as 1 cohort (inclusive of both classes, for a school total of 28 students and 2 teachers) to help prevent the spread of COVID-19. Once our classes reach their capacity, a waitlist will be started and children will be allowed to start school when AHS changes the cohort limits on their Guidelines.
- **Obtaining Previous Symptoms:** Parents will be asked to fill out a "Pre-existing Symptoms" questionnaire before school begins. This will let us know what symptoms your child commonly has due to pre-existing health conditions such as asthma, allergies, and chronic health conditions.

At the School

- **Handwashing Upon Entering School:** A handwashing station will be available as you enter the building. Children/parents must wash their hands when they enter.
- **Personal Items:** All personal items must be stored on the child's assigned coat-hook or in their bag in their assigned cubby. No toys/stuffies/blankets are allowed in the classroom.
- **Daily Temperature and Symptom Checks:** Children will have their temperature checked daily. Parents must read a list of symptoms and sign that their child is not exhibiting any of those symptoms before entering the classroom. If a teacher believes a child looks sick, they will not be able to enter the classroom. The final decision on attendance rests with the teacher.
- **Limiting Volunteering:** Classroom helpers will not be allowed at the start of the school year. We will let you know when/if that changes. We will still need volunteers for special activities and fundraising.
- **Adjustments in Activities (field trips, special guests, gym days, snacks, birthday celebrations):** We are adjusting or changing activities to limit exposure to COVID-19. Please read these sections in the Parent Handbook.
- **Disbursement/Limiting of Toys:** Toys will be limited in supply or rotated to help with cleaning and disinfecting.
- **Hula-hoop Physical Distancing:** Children will be taught to keep a hula-hoop distance around their body whenever they can. Parents should reinforce this idea at home with your child as well.

Cleaning Protocols

- We will not be offering **plushy or porous toys** that cannot be sanitized daily.
- **Toys** will be sprayed with sanitizer daily.
- There will be a "**Dirty Toys**" **bin** for toys that get saliva, nasal drip or coughed on.
- **High-touch areas** (door knobs, table tops, large toy surfaces) will be cleaned twice daily.
- Our in-class **washroom** will be cleaned daily.

COVID-19 Symptoms

Most common symptoms:

- fever
- dry cough
- tiredness

Less common symptoms:

- aches and pains
- sore throat
- diarrhoea
- conjunctivitis
- headache
- loss of taste or smell
- a rash on skin, or discolouration of fingers or toes

Serious symptoms:

- difficulty breathing or shortness of breath
- chest pain or pressure
- loss of speech or movement

Response to COVID-19 Symptoms

1. It is everyone's responsibility to do their part in preventing the spread. No one wants to see the preschool shut down due to an outbreak. For this reason, if a child/teacher develops symptoms at home they are NOT to come to preschool. They should call 8-1-1 or use the online COVID-19 Assessment Tool for guidance on next steps.
2. Children must have a clean facemask, in a ziploc bag marked with their name, in their cubby each day. Children who develop symptoms at school will be asked to put on their mask. Parents will be called to pick up their child immediately.
3. Anything the symptomatic child has touched will be placed in the "Dirty Toys" bin or stored in a sealed container for 72 hours.
4. Teachers who develop symptoms while at school will immediately put on a mask and go home as soon as another teacher can take their place.

Returning to School After Symptoms

Children who have symptoms that are **NOT** similar to COVID-19 may return after being symptom-free for 24 hours.

If the illness was similar in symptoms to COVID, we require 72 hours of being symptom-free, or, a Physician's note stating that the illness is not COVID-19. When appropriate, the Physician's note could state what illness the symptoms are related to and if they are expected to return in the future (allergies, tonsillitis, bronchitis). A negative COVID test for illnesses with symptoms similar to COVID-19 could take the place of a Physician's note.

Wee Kare Preschool may, at any time, require that both a negative COVID-19 Test Result and a Physician's note be provided before a child is allowed back into school.

The government does not require proof of a negative COVID-19 test result for students or staff to return to schools.

Confirmed Cases

Alert Status

Once one case of COVID-19 is confirmed in our school, whether symptomatic or not, we will be placed on an "Alert" status and Alberta Health Services, as well as parents and guardians will be notified.

Outbreak Status

If two or more positive cases are confirmed at the school within 14 days, or two or more that are epidemiological linked, an official outbreak will be declared. A letter will be sent to parents and guardians letting them know about the outbreak, and reminding them to monitor for symptoms in their household and what's being done to mitigate any risk to students. The outbreak management protocols will be up to the zone medical officer of health. This might mean that the school will be required to close.

Public Reporting

A school outbreak will be added to the Alberta Health outbreak site once there are five or more confirmed cases. Wee Kare Preschool and health authorities will follow the same protocols for notification, contact tracing and public health recommendations that are outlined in the “outbreak” guidelines. The zone medical officer of health may make recommendations or provide orders to effectively control the outbreak (such as school closure). These recommendations will be based on the number of active COVID-19 cases in the school and the risk of ongoing transmission, as determined by the public health investigation.

Important Note About School Closure

Any time a confirmed case is identified at a school, an investigation will immediately be launched, but even in the case of an outbreak, **Wee Kare Preschool might not necessarily close.**

Outbreak Over

The standard for declaring an outbreak over is 28 days with no new cases, according to public health guidelines. AHS public health officials will notify the school once an outbreak has been declared over and the school will work with AHS to resume any instruction activities that might have been interrupted because of the outbreak. Parents and guardians will be notified the outbreak is over.