



ABC UNIVERSITY DAYCARE SOCIETY HEALTH AND WELLNESS POLICY

ABC University Daycare Society is licenced and regulated through the Vancouver Coastal Health Authority and Child Care Licensing Branch. During a pandemic or other communicable disease outbreak, ABC University Daycare Society may be directed to close by the Provincial Health Officer, Ministry of Children and Family Development or by a Vancouver Coastal Health Childcare Licensing Officer. ABC University Daycare Society will follow all directives pertaining to the health and safety of the children, families, and our teaching team. The legal authority to close child care programs for public health reasons falls under the purview of the local Medical Health Officer and the Provincial Health Officer. Ultimately their decision overrides any decision to remain open that may be made by our board of directors and/or Program Manager.

The ultimate goal for all is to operate in a manner that meets all directives and expectations set forth by our governing bodies. Given these important requirements, it is imperative that we are resolute in our health policy, and that all parents understand and agree to the following requirements:

***COVID 19 Specific Provision of Care:**

1. Parents who are able, or who do not have employment that falls within the definitions of “COVID-19 Essential Services” are requested to care for children at home.
2. In light of the social distancing recommendations of the B.C. Health Minister, children will remain in the care of ABC University Daycare Society when deemed a necessity to ensure continuation of “COVID-19 Essential Service” roles as defined by the Provincial Health Officer. Additional children may be added to this group at the discretion of the Program Manager, with the firm understanding that they may be required to relinquish the placement in the event that an Essential Service worker requires a placement.
3. In the event that it becomes necessary to offer child care at a reduced capacity, childcare spaces will be offered to families following a priority system of Essential Service/Worker” roles, Tier 1 (both parents, or in a 1 parent household, 1 parent); Tier 1 (one parent); Tier 2 (both parents, or in a 1 parent household, 1 parent); Tier 2 (one parent); Tier 3.

Child Care Priority by Essential Service Type:

Child care providers in receipt of Temporary Emergency Funding will prioritize placements for your children based on the essential services list using the following tiered system (see attached)

Tier 1 – Highest Priority

- Health and Health Services
- Social Services
- Law Enforcement
- First Responders and Emergency Response
- Children approved to access care at a designated Young Parent Program and/or referred to the child care facility by MCFD.

Tier 2 – Second Priority

- All other occupations not included in Tier 1 that are listed on the essential service workers list
- This includes grocery workers and others working as critical infrastructure service providers

Tier 3 – Third Priority

- All other families not employed in an occupation listed on the essential service workers list
- Accepting families in the third tier is not required, but providers may offer spaces to families in other fields of work at the Program Manager’s discretion.



COVID-19 Response Health Policy:

- During a Covid-19 outbreak parents may be expected to complete a daily health review of their child at home. Additionally, families Parents will be asked to complete a verbal Declaration of Health checklist each morning, confirming that their child is symptom free and that their child has not been given acetaminophen or ibuprofen in the last 12 hours. In the event that a parent is found to be not answering this statement truthfully or withholding important medical information, ABC University Daycare Society reserves the right to terminate the child care agreement immediately and with no notice.

Symptom	May return when
Temperature of 100 F / 37.8 C or higher (orally) or 99 F / 37.2 C or higher (under the arm)	May return to child care after a medical note or negative COVID19 test confirms the child does not have COVID19 and the child is symptom free for 48 hours.
Runny nose	May return to child care after a medical note or negative COVID19 test confirms the child does not have COVID19 and the child is symptom free.
Cough	May return to child care after a medical note or negative COVID19 test confirms the child does not have COVID19 and the child is symptom free.
Sore throat	May return to child care after a medical note or negative COVID19 test confirms the child does not have COVID19 and the child is symptom free.
Difficulty breathing or wheezing	May return to child care after a medical note or negative COVID19 test confirms the child does not have COVID19 and the child is symptom free.
Unexplained fatigue, aches or cold/flu-like symptoms	May return to child care after a medical note or negative COVID19 test confirms the child does not have COVID19 and the child is symptom free.
Sinus congestion	May return to child care after a medical note or negative COVID19 test confirms the child does not have COVID19 and the child is symptom free.
Eye infections, discharge, red/pink eyes	May return to child care after a medical note or negative COVID19 test confirms the child does not have COVID19 and the child is symptom free
Children or adults who have just returned from international travel	Provincial Guidelines will be followed.



*General Illness and Attendance:

Viruses and infectious diseases spread quickly among children in group care. As much as the program staff are sympathetic towards the demands of working families, we cannot provide additional care to unwell children.

Children may not attend ABC University Daycare Society if they exhibit any symptoms of respiratory illness or fever.

There are no exceptions to this policy. As such, parents are strongly encouraged to have a contingency plan in place if they are required to remain home to care for children who are required to stay home until they are symptom-free.

These policies have been developed, taking the following into consideration: preventative public health practices, the comfort and safety of children who are ill, the ability of the staff to accommodate children who are too ill to participate in all daycare activities fully and protecting the other children, their families, and the teaching staff from communicable diseases. Children who cannot participate in all of ABC's daily activities should not attend that day. If a child is not well enough to play outside, they should rest at home.

A child that has one or more of the following symptoms will be asked not to attend the Daycare:

1. **Pinkeye, or Conjunctivitis** is an inflammation of the delicate membrane (conjunctiva) that lines the inside of the eyelid and the surface of the eye. Bacteria and viruses (which can be very contagious), allergies, pollution, or other irritants can cause pinkeye. *The child should be kept away for 48 hours after treatment has started.*
2. **Pain** Any complaints of unexplained or undiagnosed pain.
3. **An Acute Cold** with fever, severe coughing (3-5 times per hour), sore throat, runny eyes and nose (with green or yellow discharge). Staff may request a negative swab. Child will need to stay out of the center while waiting for results. Once temperature, well-being and energy are normal, coughing and runny nose may continue (depending on the illness) without the child being contagious. If the symptoms are caused by a known allergic reaction, the child is not contagious.
4. **Difficulty In Breathing:** Wheezing or a persistent cough.
5. **Fever** 37.6 C (101F) or higher: If accompanied by general symptoms such as listlessness, lack of appetite, or changes to a child's mood, this may be an early indicator of illness that requires a physician's attention. Child may return when fever has remained at 37c (98.6F) for 24 hours without the aid of medication.
6. **Severe Sore Throat** or difficulty swallowing.
7. **Infected Skin** or Eyes or an Undiagnosed Rash.
8. **Headache and Stiff Neck** Should seek immediate medical attention.
9. **Severe Itching of Body and Scalp**
10. **Diarrhea and/or Vomiting or Abdominal Cramps** - These symptoms may indicate a bacterial or viral (gastrointestinal) infection. These types of illnesses are very easily transmitted, therefore the child should be kept home until all symptoms have resolved without the use of medication and the child is able to resume eating normally, generally a minimum of 48 hours away from the program.
11. **Communicable Diseases** (i.e. Chicken Pox, Hand and Mouth or Fifth Disease). Please report to the daycare as soon as possible and observe Public Health Standards for the safe return to the program.
12. **Head Lice** Children will need to be picked up from the program immediately and remain at home for 24 hours after treatment. Additionally, the family must provide documentation from a qualified practitioner stating that the child is louse and nit free. All families must be aware that if there are any incidents of



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nits/lice the program will close immediately to allow the teaching team time to complete preventative cleaning. Please note that treatments such as vinegar, tea tree oil etc. are not sufficient and will not eradicate nits/lice. Please speak to your pharmacist as they will have recommendations for non-toxic treatments.

13. **Allergies:** If symptoms are the result of an allergy, not an infection, you should notify the staff and the child may attend regularly. A letter from the family doctor may be requested.

****Families are required to consult with the Program Manager, or Assistant Manager (via email or phone) prior to returning the child to the program, which ensures that the Vancouver Regional District Health Authority policies regarding Communicable Diseases are followed.****

Individuals residing in the household with any child attending ABC University Daycare Society are to be taking all precautions possible to limit their exposure to any infectious illness, not solely limited to Covid 19.

In the event that widespread infections begin to occur, families must agree to continue to physically distance themselves and their children from the community outside the family home and daycare as much as possible. This may entail: no playdates with children outside of our program, no parties, no parks, no visits to wander the mall. By doing this, we are all placing our trust in one another to keep their potential for exposure as limited as possible. The greater each family's exposure is, the greater the risk to our ABC community. Please behave responsibly and follow the recommendations of the Public Health Officers, particularly if your child(ren) are currently attending an Early Years Program, and/or older siblings are attending school or a before/after school care program.

Fees will not be refunded due to illness or mandated self-isolation/quarantine.

Each morning the educators will do a verbal health check with each family, asking if any symptoms we should be aware of have developed. During this time, please relay any information we may need to ensure that your child has a successful day, and transitions well into our care. Items to consider may include: how they slept the previous night, did they eat breakfast, was their schedule affected in any way (a later than usual night or long play at the park the previous evening) has something changed in the home environment - for example is there an out of town visitor or will a parent be away from home on business. The more information we have allows us to better support your child and your family. Please allow sufficient time to allow a brief check in each morning. The educator responsible for opening the daycare reserves the right to refuse admission to any child, whom in their opinion is too ill to be at school.

This includes confirming that your child is symptom free and that their child has not been given acetaminophen, ibuprofen, or other over the counter children's cold medication/decongestants in the last 12 hours. In the event that a parent is found to be not answering this statement truthfully or withholding important medical information, ABC University Daycare Society reserves the right to terminate the child care agreement immediately and with no notice.

Medications:

ABC University Daycare will only administer medication that has been authorized and approved by a physician. The medication must be in the original labelled container and the parents or authorized guardians must fill in a "Permission to Administer Medication Form" (located on our website) before any medication will be dispensed. All medication is to be given directly to the opening supervising staff member to be placed in a secure location. **Children requiring medications for an illness of a serious nature, such as asthma, or severe allergic reaction, will not be permitted to attend daycare unless they have their appropriate medication at with them.**

Any over the counter medication (including vitamins) must be accompanied by a doctor's note to ensure that correct dosages are administered, as the dosage is frequently dependent upon the child's age, weight and medical history.



Ratios and Hours of Operation:

Childcare ratios (1 educator per 8 children) must be maintained regardless of a pandemic or communicable disease outbreak.

Unforeseen circumstances could potentially impact ratios and hours of operation. In the event that educators are unable to come in to work due to illness or mandated self-isolation/quarantine measures any of the following could take place:

- The centre may be closed indefinitely.
- Hours and days of operation may be adjusted to ensure that the programs are able to meet all licensing regulations, while ensuring that the programs are able to meet all health protocols.
- Lower staff to child ratios may be mandated the Ministry of Children and Families. In the event that this occurs, ABC Daycare Society will follow the guidelines set out by the Provincial Government or other governing bodies regarding priority placement of children in the available spaces.

Child Exclusion Due to Illness Policy:

- If your child has any communicable/infectious disease, please make other child care arrangements, and contact the Daycare Staff within 24 hours of diagnosis.
- Should your child become ill while at the daycare, you will be notified immediately and are expected to arrange for the child to be picked up promptly. Your child should be kept at home until symptoms subside.
- If the parent(s) cannot be located, staff will contact the Alternate Person listed on the Enrollment Form.
- An emergency pick-up plan must be in place for your child on a daily basis.

Communication about Wellness with Children and Families:

We believe strongly in open, honest, and developmentally appropriate conversations with children. Covid-19 is no exception. To this end, our conversations will be factual, yet reassuring. We will respond to all questions surrounding Covid-19, the pandemic, or new protocols in the childcare setting. Children will be taught ways to minimize the potential spread through modelling, reminders, stories, games, experiences, and dialogue. We strongly recommend that families speak openly about Covid-19, hygiene practices, and physical distancing to prepare them for the changes that surround them. It is important to make children aware in advance that there are changes to our routines (non-entry of parents, physical distancing among children and adults, hand washing importance).

For the well-being of children, staff and families, open transparency between the program and families is crucial. We sincerely appreciate your compliance and understanding to keep everyone well!



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PLEASE SIGN AND DATE BELOW INDICATING THAT YOU HAVE RECEIVED & REVIEWED THE ABC UNIVERSITY DAYCARE SOCIETY HEALTH AND WELLNESS POLICY (included in the P&P):

By signing this document you are agreeing that:

- Should your child become ill while at the daycare, you will be notified immediately and are expected to arrange for the child to be picked up promptly. An emergency pick-up plan must be in place for your child on a daily basis.
- If your child is unwell they will be kept at home until symptoms subside. Specifically, children may not attend ABC University Daycare Society if they exhibit any symptoms of respiratory illness or fever.
- In the case of a positive Covid-19 test the child may return to child care after a medical note or negative COVID19 test confirms the child does not have COVID19 **and** the child is symptom free.
- You will not bring a child to Daycare that has been given acetaminophen, ibuprofen, or other over the counter children's cold medication/decongestants in the last 12 hours.

Signature: _____

Print Name: _____

Date: _____

Signature: _____

Print Name: _____

Date: _____