

## COMMUNICABLE DISEASE PLAN (effective September 15, 2022)

### OVERVIEW

We at Children's Hearing are committed to the health and safety of our children, families and staff. We want to ensure we meet the standards laid out by the Provincial Health Officer, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Education, and WorkSafeBC. We will continue to monitor guidelines and updates provided by the Ministry of Education and the Provincial Health Officer.

### PROTOCOLS

#### Vaccines:

Vaccines are the most effective way to reduce the risk of COVID-19 in schools and communities. Children's Hearing and Speech Centre is both an educational and clinical centre that receives partial funding from the Ministry of Health. As such, Children's Hearing must adhere to the Provincial Health Order of October 21, 2021, stating that all staff must be vaccinated or have an exemption to work.

#### Building Capacity Limits:

- Building access to parents
  - Limited unless you have a scheduled appointment
- Audiology Office
  - Limited to one parent/adult accompanying a child
- Library
  - One classroom at a time (includes educators)
- Foyer
  - Limited waiting area for one family at a time (5 minutes or less)
- Entrance (Drop off/Pickup)
  - Parents will drop off and pick up children at the outside door of their classroom

#### Events:

##### Inside the Building:

- Adults over the age of 18 must wear a non-medical face mask for the duration of an event, except when actively eating or drinking

##### Outside the Building:

- Mask wearing is not required in outdoor spaces

#### Tasks Where Workers are Close to Each Other or the Public:

- Parents will be asked to check their child's equipment before bringing them to school
- Staff meetings
  - Centre-based meetings will be held in the gym
  - Physical distancing will be a priority
  - Staff are not required to wear masks, although mask wearing is recommended
  - Staff and team meetings may continue to be held on Zoom for ease of participation. In-person meetings may be held in the gym, library or other meeting spaces. Staff are not required to wear masks at staff meetings.
- The Audiologist, Speech Language Pathologist or FW Interventionist will disinfect all surfaces between sessions
  - Toys that cannot be easily disinfected will be removed until they can be properly cleaned

## RULES AND GUIDELINES

### Masks:

#### Visitors and Families

- Adults inside the building for a very brief period of time – mask wearing is not mandatory
- Adults, including families with appointments or meetings with Audiology, SLP, First Words or the Early Learning Program staff must wear a mask for the entirety of the session/meeting.
- Adults and families with a scheduled appointment or meeting are asked to arrive on time to limit wait times in the foyer
- Masks are not required outside or on the playground
- Only one adult may be present in the Audiology room when accompanying a child

#### Staff

- Mask wearing, while recommended, is not mandatory amongst staff or in the classroom
- Audiologist, SLPs, FW Interventionists, ELP Staff will wear a face mask when meeting with a family for the entirety of a session

### Hand washing:

- Everyone will practice good hand hygiene by washing hands
  - After using the toilet
  - After touching their face
  - Before going outside
  - After coming in from outside
  - Before and after eating
  - When hands are visibly dirty
  - Before going home at the end of the day

### Staff:

- Staff will be fully vaccinated against COVID-19
- Staff will maintain appropriate physical distancing at all times
- Toys and other equipment will be removed from the classroom after use until they can be properly cleaned
- Staff will create play centres that are well spaced throughout the room
- Windows will be open as much as possible to ensure good ventilation

### Audiologist, SLP, FW Interventionists, ELP Staff:

- Will wear a face mask when meeting with families for the entirety of the session/meeting
  - With consent from the family, clinicians may briefly remove their mask to model a speech and language therapy approach
- It is up to the discretion of the Interventionist, SLP or Audiologist to wear a mask if they have a one-on-one session with a child

### Itinerant Teachers

- Will follow the safety plans of the schools they visit
- Will wear face masks
- Will provide online support as necessary and appropriate

#### Parents:

- It is the parent's responsibility to screen their children for symptoms before bringing them to the centre
  - Parents will be given a health check list that will include symptoms and conditions requiring a child to stay home, seek medical advice, and/or have a COVID-19 test
    - Parents will be informed of any changes to the guidelines made by Public Health
- Staff will sign the children in on the parent's behalf
- Parents are expected to practice physical distancing when dropping off and picking up their children
- Children will be dropped off and picked up at the outer door to their classroom
- Parents will only enter the building for meetings with Educators and/or Clinicians
  - Parents who do have a meeting will wear a non-medical face mask for the entirety of their session/meeting
  - Parents will verify that they are not ill/have symptoms in accordance with the health check upon signing in

#### ILLNESS

##### Policies for Staff and Children:

- Children and staff will stay home when they are ill
  - Refer to Policy HS 14 – Sick Children
- Children and staff who are experiencing symptoms that are consistent with a previously diagnosed health condition that are not unusual for that individual may return to school
- Staff and all adults entering the building will indicate on the sign-in sheet that they have performed a self health check
  - If 'yes' is answered to one of the questions included under the 'Key Symptoms of Illness' (excluding fever or difficulty breathing)
    - Stay home for 24 hours from when the symptom started
    - If the symptom improves, they may return to school when feeling well enough
    - If the symptom persists or worsens, they should seek a health assessment
  - If 'yes' is answered to two or more questions included under the 'Key Symptoms of Illness' or have a fever of difficulty breathing, they should seek a health assessment
    - Call 8-1-1
    - See a primary care provider (physician or nurse practitioner)
    - Take a COVID-19 test
- If a COVID-19 test is recommended, but not done, children and staff must stay home for a period of 5 days from the onset of illness and may return if the symptoms have resolved
- If a COVID-19 test is not recommended, children and staff may return when they are symptom free for a period of 24 hours and well enough to return to regular activities
- Children and staff who have tested positive for COVID-19 will stay home for the recommended period of time (5 days for fully vaccinated; 10 days for unvaccinated)
  - Staff do not need to re-test for COVID-19 to end self-isolation period
- Children and staff may return to school once they are symptom free (without medication) for a period of 24 hours and are well enough to resume regular activities
- Children and staff who have arrived from outside of Canada or who have been in contact with someone who has a confirmed case of COVID-19 must follow the direction of public health

- If a child develops symptoms (including cold and flu symptoms) while at school
  - The parent will be called to pick their child up
  - Parents are expected to come to pick up their child immediately
    - If the parent does not arrive within an hour of being notified, their emergency contact will be called
  - The parent will follow the guidelines regarding illness
  - The child can return to CHSC once they are symptom free for a 24 hour period
  - If the child has a positive test result, they will follow public health protocols and stay home for the recommended time. If symptoms are still present after 5 days they should stay home until they are symptom free for a 24 hour period and able to resume their regular activities
- If a staff member develops symptoms while at work
  - The staff member will inform their Supervisor
  - The staff member will wash their hands, put on a mask, and leave work immediately
  - In the case of severe illness, 911 will be called
  - The staff member will follow the guidelines regarding illness and COVID-19 testing as per the Health Protocol at that time
  - If the staff member has a negative test result, they can return to work once symptoms resolve
  - If the staff member has a positive test result, they will follow public health protocols and stay home for a period of 5 days. If symptoms are still present after 5 days they should stay home until they are symptom free for a 24 hour period.
- When to stay home – symptoms:
  - Persistent sneezing
  - Runny nose that affects their ability to be present in class and learn, or affects the ability of other students to do the same
  - Severe, consistent coughing throughout the day
  - Green-coloured, mucus-like snot
  - Too unwell/fatigued to participate in activities throughout the day
  - Vomiting/diarrhea
  - Fever
  - Any COVID-19 symptoms: see BC Health Guidelines