This policy is meant to be an internal document to support program procedures around COVID-19 health and wellness of staff and families. This is a template. Please update with your own logo, etc. then delete this text box.

The BC Centre for Disease Control (BCCDC) and Ministry of Health (MoH) document [*COVID-19 Public Health Guidance for Child Care Settings*](https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/health/about-bc-s-health-care-system/office-of-the-provincial-health-officer/covid-19/covid-19-pho-guidance-childcare.pdf) states that programs must have policies and procedures for children and staff who develop COVID-19 symptoms at home or become ill while at the program. As advice from public health evolves over the course of the pandemic and our ‘new normal’, it is vitally important to keep up-to-date and change your policies to adapt to new recommendations. The BC Aboriginal Child Care Society (BCACCS) will make every effort to amend these resources and templates to match current recommendations as they get announced. Please take note of the date in the footer of the resource. DELETE THIS BOX

**Policy**

In order to ensure staff and families stay healthy and safe, the program will follow public health recommendations specific to limiting the spread of COVID-19.

**Procedure**

The BC Centre for Disease Control and Ministry of Health recommend that if a child has displayed any of the below symptoms within the last 24 hours, they must stay home, be assessed by their primary health care provider or the parent/caregiver calls 8-1-1 and if recommended, be tested for COVID-19.

Staff and families will need to follow the direction of public health officials to determine when it is safe to return to the program.

Common COVID-19, cold/flu symptoms include:

* Temperature of [99.7°F / 37.6°C](https://www.healthlinkbc.ca/medical-tests/hw198785#hw198788) (under the arm) or higher
* Chills
* Cough or worsening of chronic cough
* Sore throat
* Shortness of breath
* Muscle aches
* Fatigue
* Runny nose
* Sinus congestion
* Headache

These symptoms are the common symptoms listed by the MoH. The BCCDC includes the less common symptoms that are not included here, it is up to the discretion of the program if they would like to include less common symptoms. For most recent list check [Ministry of Health](https://www.healthlinkbc.ca/health-feature/coronavirus-disease-covid-19) and [BCCDC](http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/about-covid-19/symptoms). Delete this text box.

* Loss of appetite
* Nausea and vomiting
* Diarrhea
* Loss of sense of smell or taste

**COVID-19 Child Health Procedures**

If a child develops any COVID-19, cold/flu symptoms at home the family must:

* Keep the child at home
* Contact a primary health care provider or call 8-1-1
* Follow the recommendations of a health care provider
* Obtain COVID-19 testing if it is recommended by a health care provider

If a child develops any COVID-19, cold/flu symptoms while at the centre:

While this policy applies to COVID-19 remind families that they must inform the program of any communicable diseases that their child contracts according to the [Ministry of Health](https://www.health.gov.bc.ca/library/publications/year/2003/com018.pdf). If a child develops any of the above COVID-19 or other cold/flu symptoms while at the program, staff will follow guidance from public health:

* Move child to a wellness space, where they will be cared for by a designated staff member until they are picked up by a parent/guardian
  + Minimize physical contact with the child if possible and wash hands frequently
  + Staff can use a mask, if available and tolerated
  + Provide child with care and support needed to practice respiratory hygiene (verbal support and tissues)
  + Open windows or doors to increase air flow
* Call family and (using supportive language) ask them to pick up their child immediately
  + When family arrives to pick-up their child, instruct them to follow up with primary health care provider or call 8-1-1
  + If instructed to get a COVID-19 test remind them to indicate that their child attends a group child care setting
* Manager will inform all staff to take necessary steps to minimize exposure
  + Clean and disinfect the wellness space after the child has been picked-up
  + Ensure that play areas, toys, bedding, etc. are cleaned and disinfected
* Manager will contact Licensing

**If a child has been confirmed as having COVID-19**

* The program will work with and follow the direction of public health
* Ensure to keep licensing officer up-to-date on status of presumptive or confirmed COVID-19 cases
* Families will be informed of potential exposure, measures required to ensure health, and next steps