

## **Little Blessings Nursery School COVID 19 Response Plan**

At Little Blessings Nursery School (LBNS) the safety and welfare of our students and staff is very important to us. Therefore, LBNS is strictly following the requirements set out under the Child Care and Early Years Act 2014 (CCEYA) from the Ministry of Education. Many enhanced safety guidelines and restrictions are in place during this time to ensure everyone's safety. We will be following all advice from Durham Region Public Health and will continue to monitor protocols as they are updated and released.

### **Room Assignments:**

LBNS will be operating based on the criteria set out by the Ministry of Education. Each classroom and program will form a cohort of children, therefore we will ensure no interaction of the children between rooms and programs.

### **Drop-Off and Pick-up Procedures:**

Drop off/Pick up will be staggered by the classroom. One class will start outdoors in the playground area and the other classroom inside. Children and parents/caregivers will both be screened as they arrive. At this time, parents/caregivers accompanying children will not be allowed to enter the building.

### **Screening:**

Screening for symptoms will occur daily for children, parents/caregivers, and staff attending the nursery school upon entry. Screening will include a touchless daily temperature check.

- Daily records of screening results will be kept and stored in a secured location on school property
- As per guidelines, staff must refuse entry if:
  - Your child answers YES or refuses to answer any of the COVID-19 screening questions.
  - The parent/caregiver has answered YES or refuses to answer any of the COVID-19 screening questions.
  - Child or parent have a temperature higher than 37.8 C or 100 F
- Staff will also do a visual check of anyone entering the facility. When a child or adult is evidently ill; vomiting, diarrhea, fever, runny nose, sore throat, staff must refuse entry into the facility to promote health and wellness at the centre.

### **Symptoms of COVID-19 include:**

- Fever (temperature of 37.8°C or greater)
- New or worsening cough
- Shortness of breath (dyspnea)
- Sore throat
- Difficulty swallowing
- New olfactory or taste disorder(s)
- Nausea/vomiting, diarrhea, abdominal pain
- Runny nose, or nasal congestion – in absence of underlying reason for these symptoms such as seasonal allergies, post nasal drip, etc.

### **Enhanced Cleaning:**

All high touch surfaces will be cleaned twice daily. Logs will be kept to track all cleaning. All items in the program room including: toys, shelving, chairs, tables and floors, will be washed daily between each class. Any mouthed toys will be removed immediately and cleaned.

**Toys & Play:**

We will be removing any toys from the room that cannot be easily cleaned. Sensory play will now be offered through individual sensory bins for each child. During all activities the children will be encouraged to social distance.

**Masks:**

Masks are not recommended for children to wear. However, staff will be wearing masks and eye protection at all times.

**Protocols if COVID-19 is suspected:**

- If your child is sick please DO NOT bring them to nursery school
- If a child or child care staff/provider becomes sick while in the program, they will be isolated and family members contacted for pick-up.

**Testing requirements:**

- Those who test Negative for COVID-19 must be excluded from the program for at least 24 hours after symptom resolution.
- Those who test Positive for COVID-19 must be excluded from the program for 14 days after the onset of symptoms and/or clearance has been received from the local public health unit.

**Returning from exclusion due to illness:**

- Staff/children who are being managed by Durham Public Health (e.g., confirmed cases of COVID-19, household contacts of cases) should follow instructions from Durham Health Department to determine when to return to the facility. Confirmation from Durham Health Department will be required.

**Serious Occurrence Reporting:**

We must report suspected or confirmed cases of COVID-19 under the Health Protection and Promotion Act. We will contact Durham Region Public Health to report a child suspected to have COVID-19.

**COVID Tracking in Daycares and Schools:**

The government of Ontario has put together a website to help track actual covid cases in schools and Daycares. You can visit the following link to view this site:

<https://www.ontario.ca/page/covid-19-cases-schools-and-child-care-centres>