



LBNS Program- Parents

Procedure Area/Subject: COVID-19 Response

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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. As well, 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.

PPE (Personal Protective Equipment): All staff/placement students will be wearing a medical mask and eye protection (face shield, goggles). Children do not have to wear masks while attending nursery school. Staff may take off their face shield outside if social distancing is maintained.

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 done outside of the nursery school entrance. 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. Please use the online screening tool before coming to daycare. Individuals that do not pass the screening **are not** allowed to attend the program and must stay home. An ill individual who has a known alternative diagnosis provided by a health care provider may return to child care if they do not have a fever and their symptoms have been improving for at least **24 hours or 48 hours for gastrointestinal**.



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Monitoring and Responding to Reports of COVID-19 Symptoms in a Child Care Setting

Anyone who is symptomatic, does not pass screening, or has been advised to self-isolate by the local public health unit **must not** attend the program and should stay at home. If an individual becomes ill while in the child care setting: The ill individual will be immediately separated from others, in a separate room where possible (i.e., an isolation room). Parents/guardians will be contacted for pick-up of symptomatic children.

Child Care Centre Staff, placement students, and children with **any new or worsening symptom of COVID-19, even those with only one symptom, must stay home until:**

- They receive a negative COVID-19 test result
- They have received an alternate diagnosis by a health care professional
- It has been 10 days since their symptom onset and they are feeling better

In addition, if any household members are experiencing any new COVID-19 symptoms and/or are waiting for COVID-19 test results after experiencing symptoms, the child, Child Care Staff, or placement student must not attend child care.

The Ministry of Health updated guidance to public health units regarding COVID-19 variants of concern, regarding all household contacts of symptomatic individuals to stay home and isolate.

All asymptomatic household contacts of symptomatic individuals are required to stay home until the symptomatic house members:

- Receives a negative COVID-19 test
- Receives an alternate diagnosis by a health care professional
- If the symptomatic individual tests **positive**, or it **not tested** the individual must self-isolate for 10 days from the symptom onset and all other household members must isolate for 14 days.
- Person who tests positive for COVID-19 should follow the guidance from Durham Region public health. The individual can't return to the nursery school until they have been cleared. **Individuals do not need to provide a physician's note or proof of a negative test to return to program.**



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Persons who test positive may not return to the child care setting until they are cleared by the local public health unit.

Outbreak Management

An outbreak may be declared by the local public health unit when: within a 14-day period, there are two or more laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 cases in children, staff/providers or other visitors with an epidemiological link (e.g., cases in the same room) where at least one case could have reasonably acquired their infection in the child care setting. The local public health unit will work with the Child Care Centres to determine whether epidemiological links exist between cases and whether transmission may have occurred in the child care setting. If the local public health unit declares an outbreak, they will determine what happens next. This could include closing particular child care cohorts or an entire child care setting.

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.

Snack Time: No self-serve or sharing of food at meal times. Utensils will be used to serve food. Meals will be served in individual portions to the children. Children will be spaced out during snack time. Proper hand washing will be done before snack time.

Serious Occurrence Reporting: Child Care Centres have a duty to report suspected or confirmed cases of COVID-19 to the medical officer of health under the Health Protection and Promotion Act. COVID-19 tracking in daycares and schools is found on the Ontario.ca website. Please refer to the link below for ease of convenience.

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