

Silver Springs Preschool Re-Opening Strategy

September 1, 2021

The Silver Springs Preschool 2021-2022 re-entry plan is subject to change as more information becomes available from the province. We will continue to update this document and our website with more details throughout the upcoming school year. Please monitor our website and your email frequently.

Similar to last year, we are applying and enforcing all guidelines from Alberta Health Services (AHS). More information about current practices may be found in Appendix 1 to this Strategy.

The parent/guardian conducting drop off must complete the COVID-19 self-assessment for their child before they attend the Preschool each day. This should be done no more than 2 hours prior to arrival. The same is required of all Staff Members. A copy of the self-assessment is attached as Appendix 2 for reference only.

Class Sizes

As cohorts may contain up to 30 individuals, class sizes will remain the same as last year at:

4 year old half day: 18 Students & 2 Staff

3 year-old half day: 16 Students & 2 Staff

4 year-old full day: 18 Students & 3 Staff

Cohorts

Each preschool class shall be a cohort. Cohorts may not mix with other cohorts, nor may they occupy the same physical space as any other cohort at one time. This includes pick up/drop off times. This means that each class has a strict ten minutes drop off and pick up window. You must drop off within this time frame as to allow no mixing of cohorts. For example, if you are in the 9:00am class you must checked in before 9:10 to allow cleaning time between cohorts. If you are late, you will be asked to wait until the next cohort has entered and cleaning has been completed.

Pick up/Drop Off Times

We will be staggering class start and end times to enable us to facilitate physical distancing during Pick Up and Drop Off. Program hours shall be as follows:

4 year all day program hours:	9:10am – 3:25pm
4 year half day morning hours:	8:55am – 11:10am
4 year half day afternoon hours:	1:00pm – 3:15pm
3 year half day morning (Classroom B) hours:	9:00am – 11:00am
3 year half day morning (Classroom A) hours:	9:15am --11:15am
3 year half day afternoon hours:	1:15am – 3:15pm

Use of Masks

Masks must be worn by all individuals over the age of 2 years who are not otherwise exempt when in common spaces throughout the building. The City of Calgary's mask bylaw may be found online at the following link: <https://www.calgary.ca/csps/cema/covid19/safety/covid-19-city-of-calgary-mask-bylaw.html>

Use of masks by young children in the class is not recommended since young children are unlikely to wear a mask properly. Until further notice, all staff members are required to wear a mask at all times.

Any person, whether staff or not, who enters the space of more than one cohort must wear a mask.

Entering and Exiting the Community Centre

Alcohol based hand sanitizer (>60%) will be placed at all entrances and must be used by staff and parents doing pick up/drop off and any visitors to the community centre.

Class start and end times will be staggered to allow for more space. Please see start and end times above.

Classes using Classroom A will use the hooks in the hallway for coats and backpacks.
Classes using Classroom B will use the hooks in the gym for coat and backpacks

Each parent/guardian MUST complete the COVID-19 self-assessment for their child and anyone coming to the school each day before arriving at the preschool.

Normally, parents/guardians must sign their children in when they drop them off and pick them up. For the time being, the teachers will check your child in at the entrance door to the gym.

Parents must wear a mask when dropping off their children. Parents should try to minimize time spent dropping off/picking up their children. Socializing in the gym after class will not be allowed. **Parents should stay 2 metres away from staff and other children at all times.**

Parent volunteers will not be allowed in the classrooms until further notice.

Teachers will use telephone or video conferencing to meet with parents/guardians.

Signs are posted at the entrance reminding persons not to enter if they have signs/symptoms of COVID-19.

Sick parents/guardians, staff or children

NO ONE MAY ENTER THE COMMUNITY CENTRE IF THEY HAVE COVID-19 SYMPTOMS.

The parent/guardian conducting drop off must fill out the COVID-19 self-assessment for each child every morning. Do not drop off your child if they are demonstrating any COVID-19 symptoms.

A child sized mask must be placed in every child's backpack by the parent/guardian for use in the event the child begins to show any symptoms while at preschool. The preschool will have a supply of child

size disposable masks for emergencies only.

If a child develops symptoms while at preschool, the child will be isolated in a separate room and the parent/guardian will be notified to come and pick up the child immediately. Parents/guardians are required to keep their cell phones with them and turned on while their children are at preschool. Staff must be masked while interacting a child showing symptoms. Staff must wash their hands before putting on a mask and before and after removing the mask or helping a symptomatic child to put on or remove a mask and before/after touching any items touched by the symptomatic child.

All items used by the symptomatic child while isolated will be cleaned and disinfected after use. Items that cannot be disinfected, such as books/puzzles will be removed from use by others by placement in a sealed container for 10 days.

The preschool will continue to keep records of children's pre-existing conditions as per licensing guidelines. If a child develops symptoms that could be caused by either COVID-19 or a pre-existing condition (such as allergies), the child should be tested for COVID-19 to confirm the source before returning to school.

If the child tests negative for COVID-19 they do not need to be re-tested unless new/different symptoms develop.

If two or more children are identified as having symptoms consistent with COVID-19, the preschool will follow outbreak notification procedures as per Calgary Health Zone protocols.

Program Adaptations to Encourage Safety

Children will be required to wash their hands with soap and water when they first arrive at school and before leaving at the end of the day. Children will be frequently reminded to follow proper hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette (lots of handwashing, sneezing/coughing into their elbow, put tissues into compost bin and wash hands immediately after). The preschool will use soap and water for hand washing whenever possible and only use hand sanitizer when soap and water are not readily available.

Signage will be posted in the classrooms reminding staff and children to perform proper hand washing and respiratory etiquette.

Any person, whether Staff or not, who accesses the space of more than one cohort must wash their hands (or use >60% alcohol based hand sanitizer) when entering and exiting each cohort's space.

Outdoor spaces will be used as much as possible for learning and play.

Spaces/structures that cannot be cleaned and disinfected between cohorts will not be used.

Only one cohort at a time may use our licensed outdoor play space.

Each cohort will have designated equipment (balls, scooters etc) which will be used only by that cohort.

Books/puzzles will be assigned to each cohort for use by that cohort only.

Children will take naps/quiet time in their own classroom space and will be placed in a way to allow

maximum physical distancing (all day program only).

Teachers will try to minimize using the bathrooms located in the hallway outside the classrooms and will use the washroom located in their classrooms whenever possible.

Gym equipment will be divided and assigned to each cohort for that cohort's use only with an increased frequency of sanitizing.

When possible, games that support social distancing will be encouraged through moving outdoors or using creative spacing tactics (hoops, floor markers, pool noodles, turn taking etc)

Each cohort will be assigned its own selection of toys per unit. These toys will be thoroughly sanitized before switching between cohorts.

Each child will have their own ziploc bag or mini bin to hold personal school supplies. Such supplies may include playdoh, scissors, glue, pencil etc., at the Teacher's discretion.

Cleaning of frequently touched points around the classroom will be increased. There will also be an increased frequency of cleaning of tables, chairs and other hard surfaces. Tables used for snack and lunch (all day program) will be sanitized before and after each use.

Food and drink must not be shared.

Snacks must be sent in reusable containers that the child is able to open without assistance if possible.

Personal items, toys or blankets may not be brought from home

Times may be staggered for lunch, snacks and circle time to encourage physical distancing.

Physical distancing will be encouraged through the strategic arrangement of chairs and tables.

Children may be organized into smaller groups within their cohort for organized activities.

Field trips, holiday events, concerts, performances and celebrations are cancelled until further notice due to fewer possibilities for physical distancing and mingling of cohorts.

Cleaning and disinfecting items

High touch surfaces (doorknobs, tables, chairs, faucets) in the classroom will be cleaned frequently throughout the day.

Janitorial staff will be cleaning the classrooms each evening.

Toys will be cleaned and disinfected using the commercial dishwasher or using the triple sink method. Parents may be asked to help with this task using the commercial kitchen on the main floor of the community centre.

Toys that have been mouthed will be placed immediately put into a designated bucket.

Water tables/sand tables/playdough stations will all be closed per requirements of Alberta Health

Services. Individual sensory bins may be used.

Refunds and notice of withdrawal during COVID-19

30 days written notice is required for withdrawal from any preschool class. If 30 days notice is not given, the June prepaid tuition is forfeited.

No refund will be given where a child is legally required to isolate, since their spot in the preschool is still theirs when they are permitted to return.

APPENDIX 1

THE COVID-19 VIRUS CAN BE TRANSMITTED BY ASYMPTOMATIC PEOPLE. THE SILVER SPRINGS COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION IS FOLLOWING GOVERNMENT RULES AND REGULATIONS BUT THERE CAN BE NO ASSURANCE THAT THE VIRUS WILL NOT BE CONTRACTED AT OUR FACILITY. PLEASE UNDERSTAND THAT YOU ARE TAKING PART IN THE PROGRAM/ACTIVITY AT YOUR OWN RISK.

We strive to maintain an environment that is respectful, tolerant, safe and comfortable for all SSCA facility users and employees. Any person who contravenes this requirement will be asked to leave and may have privileges suspended from the Silver Springs Community Association.

Remember, please do not come to the Silver Springs Community Centre for Preschool or any reason if:

- You or anyone in your household is sick, particularly those with COVID19 type symptoms of fever, cough, runny nose, shortness of breath or any other symptoms as outlined by the AHS Self-Assessment <https://www.albertahealthservices.ca>
- You or anyone in your household has been in close contact with a confirmed or probable COVID19 case.
- You have travelled outside of Canada in the past 14 days.

The following are Alberta Health Services current Requirements:

Albertans with symptoms

Until September 27, 2021:

- You are legally required to [isolate](#) for a minimum of **10 days** if you have a cough, fever, shortness of breath, runny nose, or sore throat that is not related to a pre-existing illness or health condition. A child with a runny nose or a sore throat does not have to isolate, but should stay home until the symptoms resolve.
- The mandatory isolation period is 10 days from the start of symptoms, or until symptoms resolve, whichever takes longer.

Tested positive for COVID-19

Until September 27, 2021:

- You are legally required to [isolate](#) for a minimum of **10 days** if you have tested positive for COVID-19.
- Isolation period is for 10 days from the start of symptoms, or until symptoms resolve, whichever takes longer.

Have symptoms but tested negative for COVID-19

- If you tested negative and have known exposure to COVID-19, you are legally required to [isolate](#) for **14 days**.
- If you tested negative and have no known exposure to the virus, you must stay home until symptoms resolve.

Close contacts of confirmed cases

- As of July 29, 2021, you are no longer legally required to quarantine if you are a close contact of someone who has tested positive for COVID-19.
- If you are not fully immunized and have been exposed to COVID-19, it is recommended you avoid high-risk locations such as continuing care facilities and crowded indoor spaces. If you develop symptoms, you must isolate and should get tested (until September 27, 2021).

Travellers

- Alberta no longer has provincial quarantine requirements for international travellers.
- [Federal border measures and quarantine laws](#) still apply for all international travellers entering Canada.
- Until September 27, 2021, if you become sick with a [known COVID-19 symptom](#), you must **isolate for 10 days** from the beginning of symptoms or until you are feeling well, whichever takes longer.

APPENDIX 2

COVID-19 INFORMATION

COVID-19 ALBERTA HEALTH DAILY CHECKLIST (FOR ADULTS 18 YEARS AND OLDER)

Overview

This tool was developed to support Albertans in protecting others and reducing the risk of transmission of COVID-19. Adults 18 years and older can complete this checklist every day to self-monitor for symptoms of COVID-19.

If you have traveled outside Canada in the last 14 days, follow the [Government of Canada Travel, Testing, Quarantine and Borders](#) instructions, including any requirements for exempt travelers related to attending high-risk environments.

Screening Questions for Adults 18 Years and Older:

1.	Do you have any new onset (or worsening) of the following symptoms:		
	• Fever	YES	NO
	• Cough	YES	NO
	• Shortness of breath	YES	NO
	• Runny nose	YES	NO
	• Sore throat	YES	NO
	• Chills	YES	NO
	• Painful swallowing	YES	NO
	• Nasal congestion	YES	NO
	• Feeling unwell / fatigued	YES	NO
	• Nausea / vomiting / diarrhea	YES	NO
	• Unexplained loss of appetite	YES	NO
	• Loss of sense of taste or smell	YES	NO
	• Muscle / joint aches	YES	NO
• Headache	YES	NO	
• Conjunctivitis (commonly known as pink eye)	YES	NO	
If you answered "YES" to any symptom:			
• Stay home.			
• Use the AHS Online Assessment Tool or call Health Link 811 to arrange for testing and to receive additional information on isolation.			
• Individuals with fever, cough, shortness of breath, runny nose, sore throat or loss of sense of taste or smell are required to isolate for 10 days as per CMOH Order 39-2021 OR receive a negative COVID-19 test and feel better before returning to activities.			
If you answered "NO":			
• You may attend work, school, and/or other activities.			

COVID-19 INFORMATION

COVID-19 ALBERTA HEALTH DAILY CHECKLIST (FOR CHILDREN UNDER 18)

Overview

This checklist applies for all children, as well as all students who attend kindergarten through Grade 12, including high school students over 18. Children should be screened every day by completing this checklist before going to school, childcare or other activities. Children may need a parent or guardian to assist them to complete this screening tool.

If your child has traveled outside Canada in the last 14 days, follow the [Government of Canada Travel, Testing, Quarantine and Borders](#) instructions, including any requirements for exempt travelers related to attending high-risk environments.

Screening Questions for Children under 18:

1.	Does the child have any new onset (or worsening) of the following core symptoms:		
	Fever Temperature of 38 degrees Celsius or higher	YES	NO
	Cough Continuous, more than usual, not related to other known causes or conditions such as asthma	YES	NO
	Shortness of breath Continuous, unable to breathe deeply, not related to other known causes or conditions such as asthma	YES	NO
	Loss of sense of smell or taste Not related to other known causes or conditions like allergies or neurological disorders	YES	NO
If the child answered "YES" to any symptom in question 1:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none">The child is required to isolate for 10 days from onset of symptoms as per CMOH Order 39-2021 OR receive a negative COVID-19 test and feel better before returning to activitiesUse the AHS Online Assessment Tool or call Health Link 811 to arrange for testing and to receive additional information on isolation.			
If the child answered "NO" to all of the symptoms in question 1, proceed to question 2.			

2.	Does the child have any new onset (or worsening) of the following other symptoms:	
Chills Without fever, not related to being outside in cold weather	YES	NO
Sore throat/painful swallowing Not related to other known causes/conditions, such as seasonal allergies or reflux	YES	NO
Runny nose/congestion Not related to other known causes/conditions, such as seasonal allergies or being outside in cold weather	YES	NO
Feeling unwell/fatigued Lack of energy, poor feeding in infants, not related to other known causes or conditions, such as depression, insomnia, thyroid dysfunction or sudden injury	YES	NO
Nausea, vomiting and/or diarrhea Not related to other known causes/conditions, such as anxiety, medication or irritable bowel syndrome	YES	NO
Unexplained loss of appetite Not related to other known causes/conditions, such as anxiety or medication	YES	NO
Muscle/joint aches Not related to other known causes/conditions, such as arthritis or injury	YES	NO
Headache Not related to other known causes/conditions, such as tension-type headaches or chronic migraines	YES	NO
Conjunctivitis (commonly known as pink eye)	YES	NO
<p>If the child answered “YES” to ONE symptom in question 2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keep your child home and monitor for 24 hours. If their symptom is improving after 24 hours, they can return to school and activities when they feel well enough to go. Testing is not necessary. If the symptom does not improve or worsens after 24 hours (or if additional symptoms emerge), use the AHS Online Assessment Tool or call Health Link 811 to check if testing is recommended. <p>If the child answered “YES” to TWO OR MORE symptoms in question 2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keep your child home. Use the AHS Online Assessment Tool or call Health Link 811 to determine if testing is recommended. Your child can return to school and activities once their symptoms go away as long as it has been at least 24 hours since their symptoms started. <p>If the child answered “NO” to all questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Your child may attend school, childcare and/or other activities. 		

Please note: If your child is experiencing any symptoms from the lists above, do not bring them to visit a continuing care or acute care facility for 10 days from when symptoms started or until symptoms resolve (whichever is longer), unless they receive a negative COVID-19 test result and feel better.

