

Wildflowers Childcare/ Out of School Care Update COVID procedures and guidelines

*These updated guidelines are specific for care during the COVID-19 pandemic

Specific Child care Regulations have been set by Alberta Health Services as well as Alberta Children's Services to ensure all necessary measures are taken to avoid the spread of this virus.

Daily Screening and illness

- Parents are expected to complete the daily screening at home before bringing their child to daycare or OOSC.
- If your child has any of the 4 core symptoms, **FEVER, COUGH, SHORTNESS OF BREATH or LOSS OF SENSE OF TASTE OR SMELL** they must isolate for 10 days or receive a negative COVID test result and feel better before they can return to daycare
- If your child has any of the other symptoms on the daily screening checklist, they can not come to daycare until **48hrs** has passed and they are symptom free. The checklist states 24hours but our policy during an outbreak is 48hrs. This could change as we receive more information from Alberta health Services
- If a child attending Wildflowers/OOSC has come in close contact with a person who has tested positive for COVID-19 they are required to isolate for 14 days and can not enter the centre.

Drop off/Pick up

- Drop-off and pick-up will take place at the entrance to our room.
- Parents will not be allowed in the playrooms while children are present.
- Only 2 adults allowed in each locker area at one time. Please continue to physically distance from other parents/family members.
- We ask that all persons entering and exiting the premises wash their hands following proper hand washing guidelines with approved soap and water or hand sanitizer. Hand sanitizer will be provided at the door for adults and older children

Cleaning and sanitizing

Employees will ensure that all current infection prevention and control practices are adhered to, this includes but is not limited to:

- Increasing the frequency of cleaning and disinfecting objects, toys, and frequently touched surfaces (checklists will be provided),
- All mouthed toys or items will be removed from the room and placed in a bin to be washed and sanitized
- Frequent cleaning of high touch surfaces
- Performing proper hand hygiene (including assisting children with hand hygiene), and incorporating additional hand hygiene opportunities into the daily schedule.

Families will instruct their children on:

- Physical distancing;
- Proper handwashing techniques

Physical Distancing

It is important to note that practicing physical distancing is meant for interactions among colleagues, strangers, and adults, etc. and is set at maintaining a distance of 2 meters apart (length of a hockey stick). Children with no symptoms will continue to be treated as we would typically care for a child. Educators will do their best to model physical distancing and set up the room to allow for more space between children. Where possible, educators will arrange spaces to encourage more separation. For example, spacing children to avoid close contact during meal and nap times and assigning a designated chair and table for each child.

Location of Care

All early learning children will be provided care at Wildflowers Childcare – 303 Bonhomme St. OOSC will be operating out of the Jasper Activity Centre- lower level for the summer but back at Ecole Jasper Elementary School for September 2021.

At this time, we will be providing the following hours of operation

- Daycare - Monday – Friday - 7:45am – 5:30pm
- Summer Fun - Monday – Friday – July & August – 8:15am-5:30pm
- OOSC – Monday – Friday – September – December 2:45-5:45pm

Fees

Parents/guardians are responsible for paying the fee associated with care.

- Parents must provide a calendar for care, noting drop off and pick up times.
- Families will continue to be billed for the full month as per our current fee agreements
- If your child is sick and must remain outside of care awaiting test results or waiting for symptoms to end (10 days), you will still be billed for those days as with our previous sick policy.
- If the program is closed due to a positive COVID-19 case, no fees will be charged during the closure.

Signage

There are posted signs throughout the building, please read them carefully. As part of routine measures for the respiratory season, existing signs are highly visible and include visual cues that remind staff and children to perform hand hygiene (e.g., sneezing or coughing into their elbow, putting used tissues in a waste receptacle and washing hands immediately after using tissues). Signs will be reminding persons not to enter if they are sick (even if symptoms resemble a mild cold) should also be posted.

Management of children/staff with possible COVID-19

If a child begins to experience symptoms of COVID-19 while attending childcare, it is required that:

- Symptomatic children are immediately separated from others in a supervised area until they can go home. Anyone who is providing care to the child should maintain a distance of 2 metres. Staff will be required to wear a mask at this time.
- Hygiene and respiratory etiquette should be practiced while the child is waiting to be

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- picked up.
- Tissues should be provided to the child for proper respiratory etiquette, with proper disposal of the tissues and proper hand hygiene.
 - Environmental cleaning of the space the child was separated should be conducted once the child has been picked up.
 - Contact will be made with our local public health unit to notify them of a potential case and seek input regarding the information that should be shared with other parents of children in the child care centre.
 - Children with symptoms must be excluded from childcare for a minimum of 10 days or get tested and receive a negative result. If the child gets tested and the result is negative, they can return to the childcare program when they have been 48hrs symptom free.
 - Children or staff who have been exposed to a confirmed case of COVID-19 will be excluded from the childcare and expected to isolate. The length of isolation will depend on current AHS regulations and differ for those fully vaccinated, partially vaccinated or unvaccinated.

If a staff is to display symptoms of Covid-19 they will be sent home immediately and get tested. Families will be informed immediately if at any time there is a positive case of Covid-19 and recommendations for all families will follow based on AHS guidelines.

Use of PPE

Personal protective equipment, such as gloves and masks, are used in strict guidance with the OH&S act and public health policies.

- Educators will use gloves when changing diapers or assisting children with the bathroom
- Educators who supervise children while waiting for a parent/guardian to pick up in the case of illness will use a mask and face shield. The area in which the child was waiting will be cleaned according to outbreak procedures once he or she has left with their parent/guardian.
- Educators who are permitted to move from one room will continue to wash hands when changing rooms and wear masks to limit cross-contamination.
- Kitchen employees will use a mask and gloves while delivering, preparing or handling the food.

Communication

Parents and educators can communicate through Tadpoles or via phones. If you have any questions or concerns you contact the program directly by email at wildflowerschildcare@town.jasper.ab.ca or for OOSC – ooscjasper@gmail.com or you can call the office at 780-852-4666 to speak to Jeff or Lisa.

Summer Fun/Out of School Care can be contacted at 780-852-8173

Notice of Liability

As the parent/guardian of _____

I give my full consent and permission for my child(ren) to participate in activities with Wildflowers Childcare programs (Early Learning and OOSC), use their enclosed outdoor learning environment, nearby green spaces, and neighbourhood walks.

I understand that there are certain risks of play that may result in damages and injuries in the participation of my child during these activities and I hereby accept these risks on behalf of my child. I understand that it is my child’s responsibility to abide by the rules and regulations imposed on the children by educators at Wildflowers Childcare programs for the safe conduct of activities in the areas indicated.

I hereby, for myself and on behalf of my child, agree to save and hold harmless and fully indemnify employees of the Municipality of Jasper & Wildflowers Childcare, on the account that all normal safety procedures have been taken on behalf of employees, from any and all liability for any personal injury or injury to any third-party child resulting from my child’s actions/participation in the above-mentioned activities.

I hereby release the Municipality of Jasper & Wildflowers Childcare and its employees from any and all liability, on the account that all normal safety procedures have been taken on behalf of management and staff, for any injuries that my child may sustain as a result of any activities taken place at the above-mentioned locations during the designated hours of care for the duration of my child’s time enrolled in these programs.

Parent/guardian signature

Date