



## OUTBREAK AND PANDEMIC POLICY

### Enteric Outbreak (Intestinal)

1. WDG Public Health will be notified at 1-800-265-7293 ext. 4752 or after hours 1-877-884-8653 when **2 or more children and/or staff at the centre are ill with vomiting and/or diarrhea.**
2. A line list will be completed for all children and staff and sent to public health daily.
3. The following information will be conveyed to Public Health:
  - Date of first case
  - Total number of children ill
  - Total number of staff ill
  - Any hospitalizations
  - Symptoms present
4. Public Health will provide an **Outbreak Number** and **Stool Kits**. Public Health will be contacted to pick up the stool kits.
5. The centre will ensure they do the following during an enteric outbreak:
  - Increase active surveillance
  - Post an outbreak notice
  - Increase cleaning and sanitization
  - Stop sensory play, group events and field trips
  - Promote hand washing and provide hand sanitizer at the entrance to the centre
  - Provide outbreak information on an outbreak board at the entrance to the centre
6. Children and staff must be **symptom free for 48 hours before returning to the preschool.**
7. Public Health will advise when an outbreak is declared over

### Respiratory Outbreak

- Respiratory outbreaks include RSV, Parainfluenza, Influenza, Adenovirus, and Rhinovirus. Symptoms are fever, runny nose, coughing, sneezing and sore throat.
- Royal City Preschool encourages all staff and children attending the preschool to get their yearly flu shot to help prevent such outbreaks.
- A child who is not well enough to participate in the program activities should not attend school on those days. (See Admission and Exclusion Policy for Children showing Signs of Illness)
- Hand washing is the best defense for the spread of disease.
- Rooms will be ventilated with fresh air daily.

## **Pandemic**

Pandemic influenza is a worldwide outbreak of influenza. It happens when a new influenza virus emerges among the people, spreads and causes diseases worldwide. In the event of an influenza pandemic outbreak the following will occur:

- The preschool will remain open unless directed by Government or the local Health and/or Education authorities or as deemed necessary by the Board of Directors to protect the Health and Safety of all attending preschool
- While the school remains open, visitors to the preschool, other than the parents and carers will be kept to a minimum, field trips will be cancelled and certain activities that can enhance the exchange of body fluids such as sand, playdoh and water play will be suspended
- Any children displaying flu-like symptoms should be kept home until they are fully recovered and the preschool must be informed immediately even if the symptoms arise on a day when the child does not normally attend preschool.
- Staff will check children and adults each day as they arrive to see if they are sick. Any child or adult who is ill will not be admitted.
- In the event of a confirmed infection discovered during a preschool session, or with any child or staff who attends the preschool, all staff and parents will be informed through email and in hard copy in the backpacks.
- In the event of a child falling ill at preschool, the parent will be contacted immediately. In the interim, the child will be isolated from the rest of the children until collected and/or medical help is available.
- All staff and children attending when the infection was discovered will be closely monitored.
- In the event that staff members become ill, the preschool will attempt to fill those spots with qualified supply staff.
- In the event that the ratio of qualified staff drops below the required ratio, the preschool would be required to close.
- Members will be kept updated through postings on our website and emails.

The preschool will provide education to staff, students and their parents on how to limit the spread of infection (for example, use good hand washing, cover the mouth when coughing/sneezing, clean toys frequently.) As well, it will be understood that in the event of an outbreak it may be necessary to purchase extra items necessary to help control the spread of infections (for example, soap, paper towels, tissues.)