



**TYKES AND TOTS EARLY  
LEARNING CENTRE INC.**

[www.tykesntots.ca](http://www.tykesntots.ca)

*Providing a nurturing  
environment where children can  
grow through educational play.*

## TYKES AND TOTS COVID AND ILLNESS POLICY FOR CHILD CARE CENTRES EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 29, 2021

Tykes and Tots will follow all guidelines as set out by Public Health with regards to safe practices regarding the COVID pandemic. Public Health changes guidelines periodically as the situation evolves. Tykes and Tots will release any updates of this policy as necessary to meet Public Health requirements. The link to the current Public Health requirements for childcare facilities is as follows:

<https://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/health-care-administration-and-provider-resources/treatment-procedures-and-guidelines/emerging-public-health-issues/2019-novel-coronavirus>

Effective September 29, the following policies will be in place until further notice:

- All adults entering the building, including staff, are required to wear a mask while indoors. Masks are optional when outdoors. Tykes and Tots will not provide masks.
- All children ages 3 and over are recommended to wear a mask while indoors except when eating or sleeping. We will not enforce a child wearing a mask who is reluctant or incapable of doing so. Please note that in the event of a positive COVID case, children who are unable to effectively wear a mask throughout the day may be required to self-isolate.
- Frequent hand washing and sanitizing is enforced. All adults entering the building are to sanitize their hands. Children are required to wash their hands upon entering the classroom.
- Frequent sanitizing of high touch areas and program equipment will be done in accordance with Public Health recommendations.
- Classroom cohorts of a maximum of two classrooms will be established and maintained.
- All adults entering the building are encouraged to get vaccinated.
- Parents/guardians of children are not allowed to enter the building if they are ill.
- Staff members who are fully vaccinated are required to show proof of vaccination. All unvaccinated staff will be required to have regular rapid tests completed. The rapid tests will be conducted on-site by trained testers and will be done a minimum of once per week. Rapid tests are only done when no symptoms are present. Any staff member that tests positive on a rapid test or who exhibits COVID symptoms will be told to contact 811 for further testing.
- There will be no field trips scheduled for the children.

### **Illness in Children:**

Children are not allowed in the centre if they develop any new symptoms of illness. Parents should monitor their children daily for symptoms (please see the Saskatchewan Self Assessment for a list of symptoms). Should symptoms develop in a child, parents are required to notify the Centre Director and call 811. Children are not allowed to return to care until 48 hours symptom



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free except as noted in the following paragraph and as stated in our cold and flu policy below.

Children who are exhibiting symptoms that are not caused by a contagious illness (i.e. allergies, teething, non-contagious ear infection etc.) do not need to stay away from the program unless they are unable to participate in all activities, including outdoor play. The staff reserves the right to request that a child be sent home if illness is suspected and to request a doctors' note to confirm that the child is not contagious.

### **Illness in Staff Members:**

Staff members are not allowed in the centre if they develop any new symptoms of illness. Staff members should self-monitor daily for symptoms (please see the Saskatoon Self Assessment for a list of symptoms). Should any staff member develop symptoms, they must inform the Centre Director and call 811. Staff members are not allowed to return to work until 48 hours symptom free except as noted in the following paragraph and as stated in our cold and flu policy below.

Staff members who are exhibiting symptoms that are not caused by a contagious illness (i.e. allergies, non-contagious infection etc.) do not need to stay away from the program unless they feel too ill to perform all duties of their job. The management reserves the right to send that staff person home if illness is suspected and to request a doctors' note to confirm that the staff member is not contagious.

### **Colds and Flus**

The intent of our illness policy is to reduce incidence of sickness in our programs to maintain a healthy environment for the staff and children in attendance. The flu and the common cold are the two most frequent illnesses that are present in childcare programs. Children and staff members who are sick with the flu or the common cold should stay home during the infectious period of the illness. The common cold is infectious from a few days before your symptoms appear until all symptoms are gone and can be infectious for up to 2 weeks. Symptoms are usually worse during the first few days, and this is when you're most likely to spread the virus. The flu is most infectious from the day your symptoms start and for a further 3 to 7 days.

Tykes and Tots recognizes that at times, lingering symptoms from a cold can remain for an extended period of time and remaining away with a lingering cough or slight runny nose is not always necessary. If a child or staff member has been away due to a cold or the flu and the symptoms have significantly reduced, they are able to attend if they meet all of the following criteria:

- there are no new or worsening symptoms and only very minor lingering symptoms persist (ie. occasionally clearing of mucus, occasional blowing of nose, occasional cough):  
and:



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- the person has a negative COVID test from an SHA testing facility (not a Rapid test).

The program staff reserve the right to request that a child be sent home if the child is exhibiting new or worsening symptoms, or the child is too ill to actively participate in all program activities, including outdoor play.

### **Communicable Diseases:**

Staff and families are required to advise us of any cases of communicable disease that has the potential to be transmitted within the program. This includes, but is not limited to, pink eye, hand foot and mouth, NorWalk virus, COVID 19, measles, mumps etc. When informed of an incident of a communicable disease within our program community, Tykes and Tots will follow the guidance of Public Health with respect to informing staff and families and any measures taken to mitigate further transmission.

### **Positive COVID Cases:**

If an individual who tested positive for COVID has been in attendance at one of our programs while infectious, Tykes and Tots will follow the direction from SHA and 811. We will notify parents as soon as we are able to advise what steps will be taken.

### **Fees and Centre Closure:**

Tykes and Tots will not issue any refunds or reductions in fees for absences due to illness. Please note that children can potentially be away from care for a week or more – depending on the illness and guidance from 811. Parents are advised to develop contingency plans in the event of an extended absence from childcare due to child illness.

Should Tykes and Tots be required to close any classrooms or childcare centres for any reason (public health requirement, staff shortage, etc.), we will notify the affected families via email and will provide a refund for the children registered in the affected classroom or centre for the time of the closure. Any refund for program closure will be applied as a credit on the account towards the next month's fees.

We will not provide a credit for siblings who are registered with us in other classrooms or centres that are not closed. We also will not provide a credit for families who are absent for any reason other than a closure of our classrooms or centres.

We thank our families and staff members for their continued patience and cooperation as we continue to navigate through the global pandemic. We will inform all families and staff members via email when changes are made to this policy.