

COVID-19 UPDATE for Bowen Children's Centre (BCC) Families

Dear BCC families,

Our highest purpose at BCC is always the health, safety and protection of the children (and families) in our care. Based on recent developments provincially, nationally and globally, including new advice from top Canadian medical authorities with respect to curbing the spread of COVID-19, BCC has developed a series of precautionary procedures. For the safety of everyone, these precautions must be followed by **all** BCC families and staff.

1. Traveling outside of Canada

BC Centre for Disease Control: [http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/coronavirus-\(novel\)](http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/coronavirus-(novel))

“All non-essential travel outside of Canada – both personal and for work – should be cancelled and, if undertaken, individuals *must* self-isolate for two weeks upon return.”

For BCC children, families and staff:

If your family or anyone in your household(s) should choose to travel out of Canada or be returning to Canada as of today March 13, 2020, BCC will require you to self-isolate for 14 days upon your return. Your children must also be kept at home for 14 days even if they did not accompany you on your trip. This applies whether or not you are exhibiting symptoms.

2. Exhibiting Symptoms

If any child attending BCC, or any individual in the child’s household(s), is exhibiting symptoms associated with COVID-19, including a fever and/or dry cough, please inform the executive director and your child should not return to BCC for 14 days or until there is evidence (such as a negative test result for COVID-19) that the child or the member of their household affected does *not* have COVID-19.

Our Responsibilities

In our efforts at BCC to reduce the transmission of COVID-19 we have increased cleaning and disinfecting:

- high-touch surfaces several times a day
- thorough disinfecting and deep cleaning over the next week of all common spaces. This will be done at night and over weekend closures so as not to interfere with the programs
- cleaning and disinfecting all toys/equipment in the programs

We will continue to work closely and take direction from our provincial health experts at the Ministry of Health and Vancouver Coastal Health to ensure the continued safety and well-being of children, families and staff.

For more information on COVID-19, including ways to reduce your risk of infection, please refer to the following resources:

- **Health Link BC** <https://www.healthlinkbc.ca/health-feature/coronavirus-disease-covid-19>
- **BC Centre for Disease Control**
[http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/coronavirus-\(novel\)](http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/coronavirus-(novel))
- **Government of Canada Travel Health Notices** <https://travel.gc.ca/travelling/advisories>

We recognize that the evolving situation, both in Canada and globally, is stressful for us all. While these steps may inconvenience a number of families, our goal is to follow best practices as to ensure that children, staff and their families are not exposed to unnecessary risk of contracting COVID-19 while attending BCC.

Ann Silberman and the BCC Board of Directors