



## **Fresh Air Learning COVID-19 Policies Forest School & Elementary Programs 2021-2022**

*Our programs rely on parents, facilitators, and children to work together to keep children physically and emotionally safe. As a parent, you can help by doing a daily health check for your child, preparing your child with the equipment needed for our program, and helping your child understand that we can all work together to help each other stay healthy.*

*Our programs are not risk-free, but rather they are environments in which parents, facilitators, and children work to create a supportive environment for each other. We are working with our staff to create positive language around our new routines to support children's healthy social-emotional development. This document will be adjusted according to new orders and other communication from Vancouver Public Health, the BC CDC, as well as School District 47. Please check this document before having your child attend and regularly throughout the program.*

### **Ratios for Program**

In our forest school programs, adult:child ratios will be a maximum 1:7. In our elementary programs, adult:child ratios will be a maximum of 1:10.

### **Parent Responsibilities**

Parents are responsible for ensuring that their children do not come to class if they are sick (even just cold symptoms). If a child becomes ill during the program, parents must be available to pick up their child as soon as possible. Our child health policies are emerging as school district and childcare policies change. We will follow the local school district's guidelines on child health policies, the BC CDC, as well as WCB to inform our program policies. Please check back on this document regularly. More details on the specifics of the daily health check will go out to parents closer to the start of the program.

Children are not able to participate in the program if in the last 48 hrs they can say yes to any of the following points:

- Fever (above 38° for children under 11, above 38.9 for 12 and older), chills, cough or worsening of chronic cough, difficulty breathing, loss of sense of smell or taste, sore throat, loss of appetite, extreme fatigue or tiredness, headache, body aches, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea.
- Have returned from travel outside Canada in the past 14 days.
- They are a confirmed close contact of a person confirmed to have COVID-19.
- They are awaiting the results of a COVID-19 test.

If you answer "yes" to any of these questions, please do not attend class and contact 811 if you have symptoms to determine whether a COVID test is required. If you have symptoms associated with other illnesses such as cold and flu, please do not attend class until symptoms have resolved.

### **What to do if your child develops symptoms of COVID-19 at home**

Here are some simple steps a parent, caregiver or staff can follow if they/their child develops symptoms at home:

1. Use the [self assessment tool](#) to determine if your child should get tested, or phone 811.
2. Do not attend class.
3. Contact your teacher via email or text to notify them your child will not be attending.
4. Monitor other members in household.
5. If a child or staff member is assessed by their family physician or nurse practitioner and it is determined that they do NOT have COVID-19, they may return to child care once symptoms resolve.
6. Participants must be symptom free for 48hrs before attending the program.

### **Can a student attend the program after a test is negative?**

If a child develops symptoms, gets tested and the test is negative, they will still need to wait to attend the program until their symptoms improve. Our policies are a child must be symptom free for 48 hrs before attending.

### **What if a student or staff member has allergies?**

Students and staff who experience seasonal allergies or other COVID-19 like symptoms, which are related to an existing condition can continue to attend school when they are experiencing these symptoms as normal. If they experience any change in symptoms, they should seek advice from a health-care provider.

### **What if there is a confirmed case in my child's school or program?**

If a student or staff is confirmed to have COVID-19, public health will work with school administration to determine what actions should be taken. This will include identifying any potential cases, getting in touch with close contacts, recommending 14-day isolation if necessary, and providing follow-up recommendations if necessary.

### **Handwashing**

Throughout our programs we will have increased handwashing. Parents will be expected to bring their own soapy water for their child and ensure that their child washes or sanitizes their hands for at least 20 seconds upon entry to and exit from the program. Children will be expected to bring hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol to facilitate hand sanitization before and after snack and/or lunch, and as needed throughout the program. The hand sanitizer should be in an easily accessible pouch or clipped to their backpack. Please help your child practice doing this on their own. Children must be willing to wash or sanitize their hands during class.

Optional: children can also have a bottle of soapy water to wash their hands with as well as sanitizer. You will be notified by your teacher if your child is required to have this in the program as well.

## **Use of Equipment**

The vast majority of equipment will not be shared. We will send out a gear list closer to the start of the program. Any equipment that must be shared will be sanitized after use and will not be shared between groups.

## **Students and the Use of Masks**

*All individuals wearing or not wearing a mask will be treated with respect in Fresh Air Learning as we strive to create an environment kind, supportive community in these difficult times.*

In our programs, children are not required to wear masks to class when outdoors, but they are welcome to wear one if they wish. The BC CDC is currently requiring “All K to 12 staff, students in grades 4 to 12, and visitors are required to wear masks in all indoor areas” ([Public Health Communicable Disease Guidance for K-12 Schools](#)). Additionally, “Mask use for students under 9 years of age should be based on their personal or family/caregivers’ choice.” ([Public Health Communicable Disease Guidance for K-12 Schools](#)).

In the event that a program visits an alternate location with an indoor space (such as in the event of poor air quality or thunderstorms), families will be asked to pack a mask for their child to wear when indoors. Families will be contacted prior to the start of the program to learn if their child(ren) have mask exemptions and/or are unable to wear a mask for any reason. Teachers can then help make accommodations and communicate this to staff at the alternate indoor location.

Families can also choose not to have their child participate on indoor program days due to poor air quality or in the event of a thunderstorm. If this is the case, your child’s teacher will confirm pick-up contact information with you individually, in the event the air quality or storms worsens during the program and an early pick-up is needed.

## **Adults and the Use of Masks:**

*All individuals wearing or not wearing a mask will be treated with respect in Fresh Air Learning as we strive to create an environment kind, supportive community in these difficult times.*

Masks for all adults are required for drop off and pick up as well as in our parent and tot programs, for adults in a supporting role, for guests or volunteers. If you have mask exemptions and/or are unable to wear a mask for any reason, we ask that you maintain a distance of more than 2 metres from others.

## **Staff and the Use of Masks:**

As before, masks will be used by staff when unable to socially distance with children, such as assisting with lunch, gear or toileting in the forest. Some staff may choose to keep their mask on for the duration of the teaching program and is their personal choice.

## **Distancing Within the Group**

Physical distance between children will be encouraged and supported as much as is practical to do so while running our outdoor programs. Our facilitators will use positive language to create routines that encourage children to have more space around their bodies during the program. Smaller group sizes, and specific activities will also facilitate distancing at this time.

### **Sign In and Sign Out**

Parents will need to complete an online COVID health check prior to their child arriving to class. Parents will assist their child washing hands upon check in. Sign in and sign out will be socially distanced and staggered. We ask that families avoid lingering with the group before and after the program.

### **Forest School Program Withdrawal Policies**

- First month's fees due upon registration. These are non-refundable.
- We require 4 weeks' notice should you decide to withdraw. Remaining fees returned or canceled.
- Families will not be refunded for class days missed due to illness.
- After March, fees are non-refundable.
- Class transfers are \$50.
- Payments up to 30 days late will be assessed at a 10% administration fee.
- Payments more than 30 days late will be assessed at a 25% administration fee.
- Class Cancellations: In the event of class cancellation due to Covid-19 or poor air quality we will reschedule 1 week of classes. Any additional weeks will be refunded.

### **Elementary Cancellation and Refund Policy:**

- First month's fees due upon registration. These are non-refundable.
- We require 4 weeks' notice should you decide to withdraw. Remaining fees returned or canceled.
- Families will not be refunded for class days missed due to illness.
- After March, fees are non-refundable.
- If there is a program waiting list, families who exit the program and would like to re-enter in the future will be placed on the bottom of the waiting list for the program.
- If in-class sessions are suspended due to COVID-19, Island Discovery and Fresh Air Learning teachers will work together to provide an equivalent package of online and offline activities for children and families.

### **Resources:**

Public Health Communicable Disease Guidance for K-12 Schools:

[http://www.bccdc.ca/Health-Info-Site/Documents/COVID\\_public\\_guidance/Guidance-k-12-schools.pdf](http://www.bccdc.ca/Health-Info-Site/Documents/COVID_public_guidance/Guidance-k-12-schools.pdf)

BC Centre for Disease Control: <http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/about-covid-19/symptoms>

Worksafe BC COVID-19 Information and Resources:

<https://www.worksafebc.com/en/covid-19>

\*Updated August 2021



## **Fresh Air Learning COVID-19 Adult Program Policies**

*Fresh Air Learning's programs rely on participants, facilitators and administrative staff to work together to keep participants as physically and emotionally safe as possible during their time with us. As a participant you help by doing daily personal health checks, bringing required equipment for your program, and maintaining an awareness that we all work together to stay healthy and safe.*

*Our programs are not risk-free, but rather they are environments in which facilitators and participants work to create a supportive environment for each other. Additionally, we consciously work with our staff to design activities that facilitate physical distance while using supportive language and social emotional tools to develop strong community connections during this new and challenging time.*

*This document will be adjusted according to new orders and other communication from Vancouver Public Health, the BC CDC. Please check this document before attending and regularly throughout the program.*

### **Personal Responsibility:**

Participants are responsible for ensuring that they do not come to class if they are sick (even just cold symptoms). During the program, there will be no exceptions to this policy. Participants will complete either an on-site pre-class COVID wellness check, or via our online form before being admitted to the program for the day.

Adults will not be able to participate if on the morning of the program they can say yes to any of the following questions:

- Do you have any of the following symptoms? Fever, chills, cough or worsening of chronic cough, shortness of breath, loss of sense of smell or taste, diarrhea, nausea and vomiting.
- Have you returned from travel outside Canada in the past 14 days?
- Are you a confirmed contact of a person confirmed to have COVID-19?
- Are you awaiting the results of a COVID-19 test?

If you answer "yes" to any of these questions, please do not attend class and contact 811 if you have symptoms to determine whether a COVID test is required. If you have symptoms associated with other illnesses such as cold and flu, please do not attend class until symptoms have resolved.

### **What if a participant or staff member has allergies?**

Participants and staff who experience seasonal allergies or other COVID-19 like symptoms, which are related to an existing condition can continue to attend the program when they are experiencing these symptoms as normal. If they experience any change in symptoms, they should seek advice from a health-care provider.

## **Handwashing**

At Fresh Air Learning we now have increased handwashing and sanitization in all of our programs. Participants will be expected to bring their own soapy water for themselves and ensure that they wash their hands for at least 20 seconds upon entry to and exit from the program, or use hand sanitizer. Participants will be expected to bring hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol. Participants will also be expected to bring handwashing equipment to class to facilitate handwashing before and after eating.

## **Equipment**

The vast majority of equipment will not be shared. We will send out a gear list two weeks prior to class. Any equipment that must be shared will be sanitized after use and will not be shared between groups.

## **Use of Masks**

*All individuals wearing or not wearing a mask will be treated with respect in Fresh Air Learning as we strive to create an environment kind, supportive community in these difficult times.*

Masks are required in all of our outdoor adult programs when unable to socially distance. If you have mask exemptions and/or are unable to wear a mask for any reason, we ask that you maintain a distance of more than 2 metres from others. Some staff or participants may choose to keep their mask on for the duration of the program and is their personal choice.

## **Distancing Within the Group**

Participants will be asked to maintain a 2-metre distance during all activities, and activities will be designed to facilitate this. Smaller group sizes will help facilitate distancing at this time. This will be further supported by the fact that our adult programs run entirely outside. Participants should avoid lingering before and after class.

## **Withdrawal Polices for Forest School Training**

We require 4 weeks' notice to receive a full refund less \$50 admin fee. With less than 4 weeks' notice, all fees are non-refundable.

## **Cancellation Policy for Wild Wisdom 2021-2022**

Due to uncertainty around the spread of COVID-19, parks regulations, and other government regulations related to our programs, we may need to reschedule portions of the in-person Wild Wisdom sessions.

There are no refunds offered to a participant who wishes to withdraw from the program, however they can inquire about the possibility of a partial credit. Contact Katrina: [info@freshairlearning.org](mailto:info@freshairlearning.org)

\*Updated August 2021