Updated Sickness Policy – September 2020

Curious Minds has updated their policies for children or staff who have symptoms of a common   
cold, influenza or COVID-19 or other infectious respiratory diseases to remain at home. In compliance with the BC Ministry and Health and Fraser Health.

Children or staff may return to the centre once they are assessed by their family physician or nurse practitioner and it is determined that they do NOT   
have COVID-19, and their symptoms have resolved.

COVID-19 and Children

• COVID-19 virus has a very low infection rate in children. In B.C., less than 1% of children and youth tested have been COVID-19 positive. Most children are not at high risk for COVID-19 infection.  
• Children under 1 year of age and older children with immune suppression and medical complexity are considered more vulnerable and at higher risk for illness (visit the BCCDC Priority Populations page for further details).

o Children who are considered more vulnerable can attend child care. Parents and caregivers are   
encouraged to consult with their health care provider to determine if their child should attend child care if they are uncertain.   
• Children and youth typically have much milder symptoms of COVID-19 most often presenting with low-grade fever and a dry cough. GI symptoms are more common over the course of disease, while skin changes and lesions, are less common.  
• Many children have asymptomatic disease. However, there is no conclusive evidence that children who are asymptomatic pose a risk to other children or to adults.  
• Evidence indicates transmission involving children is primarily limited to household settings, and from COVID-19 positive adults to children. Most cases in children have been linked to a symptomatic household member.  
• Clusters and outbreaks involving children and youth are unusual and tend only to occur in areas where there are high levels of community spread.   
• Children are not the primary drivers of COVID-19 spread in child care facilities, schools or in community settings. Childcare facility closures have significant negative mental health and socioeconomic impacts on vulnerable children and youth.  
• Prevention measures and mitigation strategies involving children and youth must be commensurate with risk.

• Adolescent children should physically distance themselves where possible when outside the family unit or household.   
• For younger children maintaining physical distance is less practical and the focus should be on minimizing physical contact instead.

Curious Minds Child care providers:  
o Must establish a policy and clearly communicate with parents and caregivers to assess their children daily for symptoms before sending them for child care.  
o May ask parents and caregivers about illness at drop-off to confirm that the child does not have symptoms of common cold, influenza, COVID-19, or other respiratory disease.  
• There is no role for screening children or staff for specific symptoms, checking temperatures, or COVID-19 testing.   
**Such activities are reserved for health care professionals.**  
• Signage to remind people not to enter the facility if they are sick are posted at facility   
entrances.