



## Storyoga Inc. Covid19 Health and Wellness Policy

Storyoga Inc. is licensed and regulated by the Ministry of Health and Vancouver Island Health Authority. Storyoga Inc. may be directed by the Ministry or by a Child Care Licensing Officer to close operations during a pandemic or other communicable disease outbreak.

Storyoga Inc. will follow all directives provided by the Ministry of Health. The legal authority to close a childcare program for public health reasons falls under the purview of the local Medical Health Officer and the Provincial Health Officer, and their decision overrides any decision to stay open.

Based on the current epidemiology of COVID-19 in B.C., and the fact that children are at a much lower risk of developing COVID-19, child care providers are encouraged to remain open or re-open, while supporting the health and safety of children and adults. Dr. Bonnie Henry maintains that childcare centres can safely care for children if they are following the prescribed health protocols as outlined below.

**Before arrival, parents are required to complete a daily health check form. A link to this form can be found on the COVID-19 Storyoga webpage.**

<b>Symptom</b>	<b>May Return to Childcare</b>
Temperature of 100.4 F / 37.8 C or higher (orally) or 99 F / 37.2 C or higher (under the arm)	After 10 days or when symptom free, whichever is longer
Cough	After 10 days or when symptom free, whichever is longer
Sore throat	After 10 days or when symptom free, whichever is longer
Difficulty breathing or wheezing	After 10 days or when symptom free, whichever is longer
Unexplained fatigue, aches, or cold/flu like symptoms	After 10 days or when symptom free, whichever is longer
Children who have, or children with other living in the same home who have just returned from international travel	After self-isolating for 14 days and being symptom free
Children who have, or children with others living in the same home and who have been identified as at risk of potential Covid19 exposure	After self-isolating for 14 days and being symptom free

**In addition, children may not attend childcare if they have any of the following symptoms:**

- Unusual, unexplained loss of appetite, fatigue, irritability, or headache
- Eye infections
- Unexplained rashes or any rash that is not confirmed by a doctor to be non-contagious
- Known or suspected communicable diseases (ie. measles, chicken pox, pink eye, hand food and mouth, pertussis, etc.)
- Nausea, vomiting and/or diarrhea in the last 48 hours, children and must stay home for 10 days from onset to evaluate their symptoms

If your child develops the above symptoms while in our care, they will be guided to a separate supervised area, and you will be notified to pick up your child immediately. If your child has ANY of the symptoms listed above, they are not permitted to return to Storyoga Inc. for 10 days after the onset of symptoms.

**If A Child or Staff Begins to Experience Symptoms of COVID19 While In Our Care:**

- Symptomatic children will immediately be separated from others in a supervised area until they can go home. In addition, where possible, anyone who is providing care to the child will maintain a distance of 2 metres. Symptomatic staff will be sent home.
- If a 2 metre distance cannot be maintained from the symptomatic child, we are obligated to follow recommendations from the local public health unit in order to prevent/limit virus transmission to those providing care. The recommendations continue to develop but may include the supervising staff member utilizing PPE.
- Environmental cleaning and sanitizing of any space the symptomatic child was in will be conducted as soon as possible; and the separate supervised space will be cleaned and sanitized upon pick up of the symptomatic child.

- Those with symptoms are required to continue to isolate until symptoms resolve. If symptoms worsen, please contact your health care provider or call 8-1-1.
- Children and/or staff who are sent home are encouraged to seek out testing via the local health unit (Saanich Peninsula Hospital is our closest testing site).
- Children or staff with any of the above symptoms will be asked to stay home for 10 days after the onset of symptoms unless tested and a negative test is received.
- Children or staff that have been exposed to a confirmed case of COVID-19 or symptomatic person(s), will be asked to remain home for 14 days unless tested and a negative test is received.
- Children or staff may return to Storyoga Inc. 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.

### **If A Child or Staff Tests Positive For COVID-19:**

Public health will determine the need to exclude any children or staff, or to temporarily close the child care setting in the event a case of COVID-19 is identified at Storyoga. Parent fees will not be reimbursed in the event a closure is required.

### **Ratios and Hours of Operation**

Childcare ratios are required during operation, regardless of a pandemic or communicable disease outbreak. Unforeseen circumstances could have an impact on both the ratios and operating hours. In the event that some employees are unable to come in to work or are in quarantine, any or all the following could happen:

- The centre may be closed indefinitely. This would be determined by input from our local health authority.
- Ratios may be lowered to meet expectations from the health authority, or if there is not enough staff available to maintain regular ratios.

- Hours and days of operation may be adjusted to ensure that the programs are able to meet all licensing expectations regarding ratios, while ensuring that the programs are able to meet all protocol expectations.
- If ratios are lowered, Storyoga Inc. will follow the guidelines set out by the Provincial Government or other governing bodies regarding priority placement of children in available spaces.
- During a pandemic or communicable disease outbreak, any parent that is at home due to any type of leave from work or is now working from home due to the outbreak, will be expected to keep their children at home. This will allow the programs to operate at lower ratios and to provide care to those families that fall into the parameters of employees recognized through the guidelines that are provided by the governing bodies.

**Drop off and Pick Up Procedure:** (also outlined in parent handbook)

- Drop off and pick up will take place at the playground in the back field of the Academy **rain or shine**. Please either park out front and walk around back with your child or park in the back parking lot and walk with your child to the playground gate.
- Parents are not permitted to enter the building unless absolutely necessary. If absolutely necessary, only one parent or caregiver will be permitted to enter the building at a time. Parents or caregivers are required to use alcohol based hand sanitizer provided before entering.
- Only one family will be permitted to approach the gate at a time. Please place your child's backpack on the hooks by the gate and leave all of their items inside their bag.
- Children are required to sanitize their hands before entering the playground with alcohol based Storyoga hand sanitizer provided. Parents are welcome to as well. Only one parent will be permitted to enter the playground space at a time if necessary.
- Storyoga Inc. staff will sign children in and out each day.

- Pick-up will take place outside in the Storyoga playground. If you expect to arrive before 3 pm please text the Academy phone and we will meet you outside with your child and their belongings: **778 679 5339**

### **Additional Health and Cleaning Measures in Place:**

- Staff and children will follow stringent health protocols. Staff will wash or sanitize hands upon entering the building and will practise frequent and thorough hand washing throughout the day.
- We have added hand washing stations outside with hand soap and outdoor hand towels and will be encouraging children to wash hands more frequently as we increase the amount of time spent outdoors.
- We have adjusted the types of snacks we will prepare and provide for morning and afternoon nourishment. These will include but are not limited to: coconut date balls, organic seaweed, organic dried mango, organic apple chips, daily smoothie popsicles, and organic popcorn. Gloves will be worn while preparing all snacks, tongs will be used for serving each item, and napkins will be used to minimize the use of dishes and cutlery.
- We will be increasing the amount of time spend outdoors to allow for more spacious and fresh air play. All outdoor materials will be washed at the end of each day and all outdoor surfaces sanitized.
- We will be limiting the number of toys and materials available indoors and sanitizing each item at the end of each day.
- All high touch surfaces (door handles, light switches, washrooms, sinks, etc.) will be cleaned 2 - 3 times per day.
- We are using a disinfectant approved by licensing with ethanol as an ingredient.
- We will be ensuring adequate ventilation and opening windows to encourage extra fresh air flow throughout the day. A Hepa Air filter will be used in the classroom.

### **Masks and Social Distancing:**

- Children are NOT required to social distance from each other. Children are social beings and adhering to standard social distancing guidelines will not be possible at all times throughout the day.
- We will however be thoughtful about how close children sit together when gathered in a group for snack, lunch, and circle time, as well as will space mats two metres apart during rest time. We will not be using the nap room at this time.
- **Children and staff will not be wearing masks.** It is our goal to provide a safe and healthy environment for everyone while offering a sense of calm and normalcy as students slowly return. As taken from the Ministry of Health and BC Disease Control dated July 8, 2020: *“There is no evidence to support the use of medical grade, cloth, or homemade masks in child care settings at this time. Wearing one is a personal choice. In young children in particular, masks can be irritating and may lead to increased touching of the face and eyes.”*

### **Sunscreen Policy:**

Parents will be required to apply sunscreen before arriving each day. Nezza Naturals sunscreen will be provided for those wishing to have a second application. Storyoga Inc. staff will wash hands in-between applying sunscreen to each child.

**Fees during a Pandemic/Communicable Disease Outbreak:** (also outlined in parent handbook)

**Refunds will not be given** in the event your child is required to stay home for 10 days or more. Our 30 day policy will remain in effect and is required to withdraw your child.

In the event of a short-term closure due to a pandemic or communicable disease outbreak (less than 30 days), fees are due and payable as per usual operations. Fees payable during closures exceeding 30 days will be reevaluated based on information received from the Ministry of Children and Family Development.

In the event of a closure of 30 days or more, Storyoga Inc. may be unable to hold spaces at no charge while families are in isolation and nominal charges may need to be imposed to cover ongoing operating costs. As each outbreak or pandemic is different,

the guidelines around these situations would be different as well. Each situation will be decided based on information provided by the Ministry of Children and Family Development.

The ACCB, (Affordable Child Care Benefit), formerly known as subsidy, is provided through MCFD and may or may not be provided during a pandemic or communicable disease outbreak closure. Parents/Guardians may directly contact the MCFD office at 1-888-338-6622 to discuss MCFD's policy regarding the ACCB payments. This decision is outside of Storyoga Inc.'s authority. If MCFD will not cover the fees, then parents will be responsible for the full monthly fee for their childcare if a closure under 30 days occurs.

## Storyoga Inc. Consent Form

In consideration for childcare services to be provided by Storyoga Inc.:

- 1. CONSENT TO ADMINISTER SUNSCREEN  
I consent to the employees of Storyoga Inc. to apply sunscreen to my child on an as needed basis.
- 2. ACTIVITIES  
I consent to my child participating in the daily activities of the program including my child leaving the premises with Storyoga Inc. staff for Forest Friday and Wilderness Wednesday scheduled sessions. I understand that I will be informed of field-trips that require public transportation or take place outside the immediate neighbourhood of McTavish Academy of Art. I understand that all activities will be carefully planned and adequately supervised.
- 3. HEALTH AND WELLNESS POLICY  
I have been provided with, and reviewed, an electronic copy of the Covid19 Health and Wellness Policy and agree to comply with the policies contained therein.
- 4. MEDICAL TREATMENT AND RELEASE OF MEDICAL RECORDS  
In the event of a medical emergency, I consent to Storyoga Inc. and its employees contacting an ambulance/emergency service and to secure medical treatment for my child. Such action is only to be taken when immediate contact with me cannot be made. It is understood that Storyoga Inc. is not responsible for any medical or ambulance costs.
- 5. WAIVER OF LIABILITY  
I agree that Storyoga Inc. and its owners, directors, officers, agents, representatives and employees shall not be liable for any injury to my child or loss or damage to my child's personal property arising from, or in any way resulting from, my child's attendance at Storyoga Inc. and/or participation in the activities of Storyoga Inc., and agree to release and indemnify Storyoga Inc. and its owners, directors, officers, agents, representatives and employees from any and all claims and damages arising as a result of any such injury, loss or damage.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Full Name of Parent/Guardian