



COVID-19 HEALTH & SAFETY PROTOCOLS

The SAAAC Autism centre will be following all existing health and safety requirements as directed by the local medical officer of health and other policies and guidelines issued by the Ministry of Health. Plans must also be in place to respond should any staff, children, or parents/guardians be exposed to COVID-19.

Requirements for health and safety

1. The SAAAC Autism Centre will ensure all current infection prevention and control practices are adhered to, and this includes but is not limited to:

- Ensuring all toys used at the centre are made of material that can be cleaned and disinfected (e.g. avoid plush toys and soft books);
- Increasing the frequency of cleaning and disinfecting objects, toys and frequently touched surfaces to every four hours, or as needed;
- Any items that a child has placed in their mouth, will be removed immediately and disinfected;
- All frequently touched surfaces will be washed at least every 4 hours, including doorknobs, light switches, toilet handles, and tabletops;
- Performing proper hand hygiene, a minimum of 20 seconds (including assisting children with hand hygiene);
- Incorporating additional hand hygiene opportunities into the daily schedule.

2. Encourage more physical space between those at the Centre by:

- Cohort size for each room of a maximum of 2 to 4 individuals (including staff & children) space permitting;
- Each cohort will remain together for the entire session;
- Cohort group will not mix with other cohort groups;
- The SAAAC Autism Centre staff is encouraged to only work at the SAAAC Autism Centre during the pandemic;
- Administration staff will limit their movement between rooms;
- Therapists will be assigned to specific cohorts and not mix with other cohorts

3. For sensory materials, such as playdough, water, sand, etc. we are permitted to single use, to be used by one child for the session only. All sensory materials must be discarded at the end of the day.



4. We will not be offering field trips or allowing special visitors to the centre until further notice;
5. We will not use community playgrounds; except our outdoor playground when the time is appropriate and having only 1 cohort at each playground outside at a time;
6. Pick-up and drop-off of children will happen outside the centre at the front door.
7. We will clearly communicate to parents to check:
 - Their child's temperature before coming to the SAAAC Autism Centre.
 - If the temperature is equal or greater than 37.8 degrees Celsius or if the child has any cold-like symptoms or vomiting and/or diarrhea, they must stay home.

Screening

8. All individuals, including children, parents/guardians, and staff must be screened upon arrival using the criteria below. Entry will be denied to any person including the child of a parent/guardian who meets the following criteria:
 - Signs or symptoms of respiratory infection, such as cough, shortness of breath, sore throat, and/or fever.
 - Anyone who has travelled outside of Canada in the last 14 days.
 - Anyone who has come in contact with someone who has a positive testing of COVID-19 in the last 14 days.
9. A touchless thermometer will be used for screening of staff, parents and children at time of arrival and departure.
10. The SAAAC Autism Centre will not permit children who are ill to attend the Centre.
11. Administration staff and therapists will wear the proper PPE gear, including face shield, face mask, and gloves and when needed will be separated by a protective plexiglass barrier.
12. A record of the following will be completed and made available to all authorities when required: Date of Attendance, Name of Child, Time of Arrival, temperature at time of arrival and temperature 4 hours later and temperature at time of departure.
13. If a child is showing any symptoms, such as cough, shortness of breath, sore throat, and/or fever will be placed in isolation in the office with an administrator. The administrator will be equipped with a face shield, mask, gown and gloves. If the child is over 2 years, the child will be provided with a disposable mask. Parents will be contacted by telephone immediately and request an immediate pickup. Parent will be requested to seek medical attention or call the local public health for further guidance.



14. The child may not return to our program unless we have a physician's note stating the child has tested negative for COVID-19. If the child continues to show symptoms, the child can not return until after 24 hours of being symptom free.

Management of children with possible COVID-19

15. If a child begins to experience symptoms of COVID-19 while attending childcare, it is recommended that:

- Symptomatic children are immediately separated from others in the Centre until they can go home. In addition, where possible, anyone who is providing care to the child should maintain a distance of 2 metres;
- If a 2-metre distance cannot be maintained from the ill child, the administrator with ill child will wear a face shield, mask, gown and gloves.
- The child, if older than 2 years old, will be provided with a disposable face mask.
- Tissues will be provided to the child for proper respiratory etiquette, with proper disposal of the tissues and proper hand hygiene.
- Environmental cleaning of the space where the child was separated will be sanitized once the child has been picked up.
- Administration will contact the local public health unit to notify them of a potential case and seek input regarding the information that should be shared with other parents of children in the childcare centre.
- Children with symptoms will be excluded from attending the Centre for 14 days after the onset of symptoms.
- Children or staff who have been exposed to a confirmed case of COVID-19 or symptomatic person(s), will be excluded from the Centre for 14 days.

Occupational Health & Safety

15. The SAAAC Autism Centre will screen all staff members upon entering our centre. Each staff member must wash their hands once their temperature is checked. Each staff member will be provided with a cloth face mask and volunteers will be provided with a disposable mask while in the centre.

16. If a member of our staff is suspected to have or is diagnosed with COVID-19, they must remain off work until symptoms are fully resolved and negative tests have been confirmed.



17. The SAAAC Autism Centre administration will consult with the local public health unit to determine when the care can return to work.

18. If the staff member's illness is determined employee to be work-related:

In accordance with the Occupational Health and Safety Act and its regulations, the SAAAC Autism Centre's administration will provide a written notice within four days of being advised that a worker has an occupational illness, including an occupationally acquired infection, to the Ministry of Labour, Ministry of Education and Public Health.