



StrongStart Health and Safety Policies and Procedures

This document was created referencing the WorkSafe BC Guidelines, the School District (SD)47 Health Guidelines and Safety Plan, the Provincial COVID-19 Health & Safety Guidelines for K-12 Settings, the COVID-19 Public Health Guidance for Child Care Settings, CDC Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) - Cleaning and Disinfecting your Facility and Caring for our Children.

This document helps keep lines of communication clear. The intention is to communicate policies and procedures in order that participants in StrongStart programs are safe while participating. Families must agree to the contents of this document before attending the program. The SD47 Early Learning team will review the effectiveness of this document often and make adjustments as necessary. This document reflects practice based on the current stage 2 recommendations. If the stage changes, this document will be adjusted to will reflect that change.

PARTICIPANT RESPONSIBILITIES

All participants in the program are responsible to:

- Assess themselves daily for symptoms of common cold, influenza, COVID-19 and other infections respiratory disease prior to entering the school
- Stay home and self-isolate if they have symptoms of COVID-19 OR travel outside Canada in the last 14 days OR were identified as close contact of a confirmed case or outbreak.
- Seek assessment by a health-care provider and self-isolate while awaiting results if they have a cold, influenza, or COVID-19-like symptoms.

SELF ASSESSMENT

When participating families attend the program they will be asked to review the **Know the COVID-19 Symptoms** document and verify they have not answered yes to any of the questions. This will need to be done before entering the program. Families are not permitted to participate if they answer yes to any of the questions.

PROTOCOL AROUND ILLNESS WITH COVID-19

If any family member shows signs of illness during the program, as outlined in the **Know the COVID-19 Symptoms** document, they are expected to leave the program. Anyone experiencing symptoms should use the BC COVID-19 Self-Assessment Tool to determine whether they should self-isolate or be tested for COVID-19. They can also contact 8-1-1 or their family physician/nurse practitioner for guidance.



StrongStart

Families may still attend the program if a member of their household has a cold, influenza or COVID-19-like symptoms, provided they are asymptomatic.

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

Anyone experiencing symptoms of illness should not return to the program until they have been assessed by a health-care provider to exclude COVID-19 or other infectious disease AND their symptoms have resolved.

If a participant at the StrongStart program is confirmed to have COVID-19 and were potentially infectious while participating, public health will perform an investigation to determine if there are any potential close contacts. If it is determined that there are close contacts, public health will use the attendance sheets to assist in contact tracing and provide guidance on what steps should be taken.

Public Health may then:

- Recommend 14-day isolation for confirmed close contacts
- Recommend monitoring of symptoms
- Provide follow-up recommendations

PROGRAM INFORMATION

- The StrongStart Outdoor ORCA Bus Program will be offered two days per week to start, then gradually increase. When up to full capacity, the program will run Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday for 2 hours. Program locations will include: Larry Gouthro, Willingdon Beach, Sunset Park and Timberlane Park.
- The program will be offered outdoors in parks around the community. The ORCA Bus will be onsite- the program will take place outside the bus. Participants will need to come prepared for outdoor activities in any weather.
- Participating adults need to maintain physical distance from each other and from children who are not their own.
- All adults are required to wear a mask if they are not able to maintain physical distancing from each other or from children who are not their own.
- The program will offer Gross-motor Activities, Wonder Walks and Circle Time.
- **REGISTRATION:** Participating children must be registered for StrongStart with the school district before signing up to attend the program. Completed registration forms are emailed to strongstart@sd47.bc.ca. ALL REGISTRATION FORMS MUST BE SENT WITH THE CHILD'S BIRTH CERTIFICATE. Registration forms are also available at the School Board Office (4351 Ontario Avenue). A fillable registration form can be accessed here: [pdf StrongStart Registration Form.pdf](#), on School District 47's StrongStart webpage or at the School Board Office (4351 Ontario Avenue).
- **SIGN UP FOR PROGRAM:** We are not able to accept drop-in participation. Participants will sign up to attend our program. All participants are pre-registered for each session to ensure numbers of people are controlled and their identifying information is complete. Families will express interest in attending by leaving a message at 604-414-2635. After leaving a message, only



Strong Start

families who receive phone confirmation will be able to attend. Cutoff for expression of interest will be Monday of the week before scheduled dates (i.e. cutoff for October 5-9 is Monday September 28, 2020). We will be scheduling one week at a time. We ask that families request attendance no more than one day per week.

- **ATTENDANCE:** Electronic attendance will be collected using either our iPad or personal devices by scanning a QR code. As part of attendance families will be asked to review the **Know the COVID-19 Symptoms Daily Health Check** document and verified that we have not answered yes to any of the questions. The document can be found here: [Daily Health Check](#). Completing attendance information is required before families participate in the program.
- No snack will be provided during the program at this time.
- Participants could bring a backpack containing hand sanitizer, water bottle, a whistle, a small snack and a yoga mat to sit on for Circle Time.

CLEANING/DISINFECTING/SANITIZING

- Hands
 - All participants can either wash hands (for 20 seconds) with soap and water in washroom or use sanitizer (rub until dry) upon arrival to the program as well as before and after all transitions.
- Toys
 - Small materials and toys can be cleaned with disinfecting wipes between each use.
 - At the end of the program all used materials and toys are disinfected/sanitized.
 - Items that are not easily cleaned have been removed (e.g. fabric and soft items: including plush toys, pillows, couches and fabric chairs).
 - Any mouthed toys are cleaned and sanitized before being used by other children. Parents are responsible for putting mouthed toys aside in designated bin for cleaning and sanitizing.
- Devices used during the program (iPads):
 - An alcohol-based solution (70% or more) should be used to clean the surface of any device used by multiple participants. The cleaning solution should not be sprayed on the device. Either use a pre-packaged wipe or spray solution on a cloth or paper-towel, then wipe.

MISC. INFO

There is no evidence that the COVID-19 virus is transmitted via textbooks, paper or other paper-based products.

The Early Learning team will offer programming slowly, to make sure we practice within current suggested practice. We hope to add more program options as we progress through this school year. Watch for notices on the [School District Early Learning webpage](#).

Thank-you for your patience as we navigate this new way of offering programs.

