

SD10 (Arrow Lakes) District Protocol

Provision of In-School Care for Essential Services Workers

Overview

School Districts across the province have been charged with supporting essential service workers (ESW) by providing in-school care for ESW's children where needed, so that they can continue to work. The provision of in-school care is one of the four principles designed by the Ministry of Education to guide districts in their response to COVID-19. As in-school care providers we play a key role in not just ensuring that ESWs can continue to work but in protecting children from and minimizing the impact of infection and illness. Schools will be set up in a safe manner, following all public health orders and recommendations in order to maintain a healthy and safe environment. This Protocol has been developed to provide guidelines for the provision of in-school care for essential services workers.

Identifying ESW Child-Care Needs

1. Determine students whose parents identify as being ESW and who are in need of childcare.
 - a. Essential services are those daily services essential to preserving life, health, public safety and basic societal functioning.
 - b. Tier 1: Health/Health Services, Social Services, Law Enforcement, First Responders, Emergency Response (services British Columbians rely on in their daily lives). Tier 1 also includes those providing care to children and individuals with disabilities and childcare workers providing care for ESWs.
 - c. Tier 2: any other occupation on the provincial list of essential services: [Non-health essential service providers](#).
 - d. Consider needs for childcare of any teaching staff if they are required to work on site with students.
2. Determine if childcare needs are a result of no other childcare options.
3. Determine frequency and duration of childcare needs (days/times).

Establishing an In-School Care Plan

4. Develop a schedule using available staff (volunteers then redeployment if necessary).
5. Identify specific location for childcare (Strong Start room for children up to grade 3).
 - a. Older students will require separate space(s) that are more conducive to their age.
6. Determine equipment / furniture needs for the childcare spaces.
7. Develop a drop off / pick up process that ensures social distancing (ensure all emergency contact information are available and the space has a phone).

Guidelines for Providing In-School Care

8. Designate entrance/exit for students attending childcare. Designated room(s) will be limited to a maximum of eight children. Each child will have a designated area to use.
9. Unnecessary clutter, furniture, toys and carpeting should be removed. Supervisors are required to review child toys and equipment.
10. Ensure proper cleaning is possible. Small items that cannot be cleaned daily (such as Lego blocks) should be removed from use to decrease potential for transmission.
11. A daily register of staff start/end dates and times will be required for attendance

tracking. This is critical in the event that follow up is required.

- 12 The childcare should be operationally separated from the rest of the school. The District and school Principal/Vice Principal will advise on restricting the interactions between the childcare operation and school staff through the use of exclusive access routes, physical barriers and designated washrooms.
- 13 School staff will receive an orientation to avoid designated childcare zones.
- 14 The District will provide cleaning services each day, both during the day and after closing. A custodian will be available to check in up to four times per day or upon request to respond to any concerns.
- 15 A cleaning kit including a spray bottle with an approved disinfectant and paper towels will be available for staff to help manage immediate cleaning needs.
- 16 High-touch surface cleaning by custodians will be the focus and rooms will be disinfected after hours on a daily basis.
17. Childcare for ESW's are expected to follow the Ministry of Health Public Guidelines for Childcare Facilities regarding Coronavirus COVID-19 in the document link provided here: http://www.bccdc.ca/Health-Info-Site/Documents/COVID19_PublicHealthGuidanceChildcareFacilities.pdf

Related Documents

- [Cleaning and Disinfectants for Public Settings](#)
- [Public Health Guidance for Childcare Facilities](#)
- [Public Health Guidelines for K-12 Settings](#)
- District Protocol S-22 Supporting Students In-Person in Schools During COVID-19