



## **COVID-19 Procedures for the Aylmer Preschool**

At the Aylmer Preschool, the health and safety of your children is our utmost priority, as such, we have made changes to reflect guidelines set forth by the Ministre de l'Éducation and the Direction générale de la santé publique (DGSP) with respect to the Covid-19 pandemic. These measures may change as the Government of Quebec updates their recommendations. As you arrive at school with your child, please be respectful of our efforts as outlined below, review the information posted on the front door and walls inside the school, and check your e-mail and our class Facebook pages regularly for updates.

We have adapted our program, operations and procedures to implement increased health and safety measures:

### **Modified traffic patterns**

- To allow for adequate social distancing at drop-off and pick-up, a limited number of parents will be allowed in the building at one time. Please wait outside (while keeping a distance from other families) until a teacher welcomes you in. Families will enter by one door, assist their child to change and enter the classroom, and exit the school through the back door to facilitate a one-way flow of traffic. Teachers and signage will direct you to the entrance, through to the classroom, and to the exit once your child is in class. As much as possible, please try to keep goodbyes brief to allow other parents and children to enter the classroom.
- Parents are required to wear a mask at all times while inside the preschool during drop-off.
- As much as possible, weather permitting, pick-up at the end of the school day will be from the schoolyard. Please be respectful of social distancing from other families during this time. In the event of bad weather, the kids will be dressed and waiting in the foyer of the building with the teachers. Children will be sent out once the teachers confirm the parent/guardian of the child is present. No parent/guardian will be allowed to enter the preschool at pick up. If you need to speak with your child's teacher, we ask that you make an appointment with them so that it can be done at a time convenient for both you and the teacher.

## Health Screening

- To ensure the continued health and safety of the children and staff, parents/guardians will need to fill out an *online health screen form* prior to bringing their child to preschool. This form should be filled out each morning **before drop-off, prior to 08:00am** to ensure that the teachers receive the responses in time. Those who fill out the form before drop-off will be given priority in the line.
- If parents/guardians do not have access to the internet or a computer, the teachers will be able to go through the health screen at drop-off before the child enters the preschool.
- If you answer “yes” or “do not agree” to any of the questions in the form, the child will not be allowed into the preschool.
- If your child, or any member of your household, develops symptoms of or tests positive for COVID-19, please do not present yourselves to the preschool. Symptoms include, but are not limited to: fever, cough, difficulty breathing, sore throat, loss of sense of smell and taste, major fatigue, significant loss of appetite, general muscle pain, vomiting, diarrhea. Importantly, children have been shown to develop different symptoms than those seen in adults – if your child seems unwell *in any way*, please err on the side of caution. Please refer to public health guidelines for additional situations, for example, self-isolation after travel or after close contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19. If a child is showing one or more symptoms that justify being kept at home, it is strongly suggested that the child be tested. The criteria for returning to school (discontinued isolation) vary based on the diagnosis.
- Questions about COVID-19 can be directed to the Centre intégré de santé et de services sociaux de l’Outaouais (CISSS): <http://www.cisss-outaouais.gouv.qc.ca> or 1-877-644-4545

## Runny nose

- If your child has a runny nose and it can be attributed to their seasonal allergies (ie ragweed, pollen) AND the secretions are clear in colour, then the child can attend preschool.
- If your child has a runny nose and they do not suffer from allergies OR the secretions are yellow/green in colour, then the child may not attend preschool and will need to stay home until they are symptom free for 24 hours.

- If the child has a runny nose in conjunction with a cough or fever or any other symptom, they must not enter the preschool and must contact 1-877-644-4545 to make an appointment for a Covid-19 test.
- If your child develops a runny nose during school time, you will be contacted by the teachers and asked to pick up your child as soon as possible.

### **Social distancing and Personal Protective Equipment**

- Preschool teachers will wear personal protective equipment (mask or visor) at the school, since physical distancing between teachers and preschool-aged students is not required.
- While there is no required physical distancing between students in the same class, children will be assigned to a consistent smaller group for snacks, lunch and seated activities, such as crafts.

### **Increased hygiene and sanitation**

- While hand hygiene was already an important part of our daily school routine, frequency will be increased. Children will wash their hands when entering the school, before and after each recess, before and after eating food, after blowing their nose and using the washroom, and when leaving at the end of the day. Adequate hand sanitizer, soap and disposable paper towel will be readily available to teachers and students.
- Lunch boxes and snack bags will remain in your child's backpack, and not in a communal area.
- Separate supplies, such as markers, scissors, glue, will be provided to each child in a labelled plastic case to reduce the risk of possible contamination.
- Children will only have access to 2 washrooms in the coat/cubby room, which will be cleaned and disinfected daily, and will not be used by others during class time.
- There will be increased disinfection of the classroom and common areas, as well as surfaces such as door handles.
- Toys will not be shared between the Caterpillar and Butterfly classes and toys will be cleaned weekly by an external agency.

### **Emergency protocol**

- Should a child develop symptoms while at the preschool, the child will be isolated (while remaining with a teacher outfitted with additional personal protective equipment – mask, face shield, gown and gloves) and family will be informed and

asked to pick them up immediately. Parents must then contact public health (1-877-644-4545) as soon as possible and follow the guidelines provided. If your child tests positive for Covid-19, the staff and parents of children at the Preschool will be advised by public health.

**A final note**

Starting school, under normal circumstances, can cause some anxiety for children and parents. The Covid-19 pandemic has complicated things, but we are determined to continue providing fun and exciting routines that promote learning and development for children. Please discuss these health and safety measures with your children before starting, and during the school year, to encourage normalcy and routine with these practices.

Please do not hesitate to contact the Aylmer Preschool at [covid@aylmerpreschool.org](mailto:covid@aylmerpreschool.org) or speak with teachers regarding specific questions or concerns you may have.