

Kinderschule COVID Manual for Parents



We want to do everything we can to keep the children safe from COVID infection, while at the same time allowing for their development through play and participation at Kinderschule.

Please read the manual attentively.

Prevention Measures and Screening

Children, adults and staff should **self-isolate** and not enter child care centres if they:

- have travelled **outside Manitoba** in the previous 14 days
(Public Health Orders currently exclude locations in: Western Canada, the territories, and Ontario – west of Terrace Bay)
- are a **close contact** of a confirmed case of COVID-19
- are **awaiting a COVID-19 test** result due to possible symptoms or exposure, or
- have symptoms of COVID-19. The list of **symptoms** as it will be posted at Kinderschule is as follows:

Do you have a new onset, or worsening, of any ONE of the following symptoms?

	yes	no
fever > 38°C or think you have a fever or chills		
cough		
sore throat/ hoarse voice		
shortness of breath/ breathing difficulties		
vomiting or diarrhea for more than 24 hours		

If you have ONE of the above...

Do you have a new onset, or worsening, of any TWO of the following symptoms?

	yes	no
Runny nose		
Muscle aches		
Fatigue		
Conjunctivitis		
Headache		
Skin rash of unknown cause		
Nausea or loss of appetite		

...or two of these → **DO NOT COME TO KINDERSCHULE**

This reflects the current COVID assessment tool on the provincial website:

https://manitoba.ca/asset_library/en/coronavirus/covid19_screening_checklist.pdf

Anyone who is unsure whether they or their child should be tested and self-isolate, please use the COVID-19 Screening Tool at:

<https://sharedhealthmb.ca/covid19/screening-tool/>

All families must monitor their child(ren) daily for symptoms before sending them to Kinderschule. A child who meets any of the exclusion criteria will not be admitted to the centre and will be advised to **immediately isolate** and consult Health Links.

Those with the above symptoms should be tested, and if negative for COVID-19 they can return 24 hours after symptoms resolve. If individuals choose not to be tested, they should isolate for 14 days from symptom onset, and may return if symptoms have resolved at that time.

Parents/guardians are **asked daily** to confirm that their child has no symptoms and is not otherwise required to self-isolate. Kinderschule is not required to screen children for specific symptoms or take temperatures of children upon arrival.

- A chronic stable cough, sneeze, runny nose, or nasal congestion that is unchanged and clearly linked to a known medical condition such as asthma or allergies is **not** an absolute requirement for exclusion.
- As well, children who are crying or teething can exhibit a runny nose.
- Changing or worsening of chronic symptoms requires isolation and contacting Health Links.

When in doubt, we will err on the side of caution, exclude the child and advise the parent/guardian to contact Health Links or their health care provider.

Guidelines may change based on emerging circumstances and information from public health officials.

Drop off and Pick up

To minimize the number of individuals entering the facility, please have only **one family member** pickup and drop off your child(ren).

Adults are asked to bring a **mask** to Kinderschule, as it is not possible to maintain physical distancing of two metres at all times during drop off and pick up due to the narrow halls. We request that the mask be used when others are present, just to put everyone at ease. We have arranged for **distanced changing spaces** for the children, as outlined below.

During the changing time with the child, when at two meters distance from others, the mask could be removed (without contamination as we've all learned).

DROP OFF PROCEDURE — as of 8:30am

- A single parent or guardian arrives with one or two children.
- Enter and wash and dry hands at the sink in the arrival hallway (new sink). Proceed to the cubby for the child if no parents are within one meter. Otherwise, just wait.
- Remove adult's and child(ren)'s outside shoes at the cubby, and collect child(ren)'s indoor shoes.
- Proceed with the child(ren)'s indoor shoes to a **"Designated Changing Area"**
- Help the children change, and give them their snack and water to carry into the classroom. Now they are ready.
- Enter to hallway to the Kinderschule Classroom only **when other adults have left.**
- Greet the Kinderschule staff at our new Dutch Door for the requisite questioning. And to say hello!
- Parent/Guardian retrieves their shoes from the cubby area when no other parent are within one meter, and proceeds to exit via the regular entrance.

Designate Changing Areas will be labeled. Two are on the long bench in the hallway in front of the Kinderschule classroom. Two will be on the couches in the gym. Further areas for changing are available in the gym.

PICK UP PROCEDURE — as of 11:20am

- A single parent or guardian arrives at Kinderschule and washes hands at the sink in the arrival hallway (new sink).
- Knock at the gym door (or classroom if children are there) and Kinderschule staff will bring your child out to go home, so long as only one other child is still getting ready at the cubbies. Otherwise, please wait beside the sink after knocking.
- Change child(ren) into outdoor shoes at one of the two 'designated changing areas' on the long bench.
- Collect any of the child(ren)'s items from their cubby and proceed upstairs to finish putting on all other outerwear. Only one family should change in the upstairs landing at any time. Otherwise, please wait near the top of the stairs.

Children will essentially be coming into the classroom one at a time, and leaving the classroom one at a time. We ask for your patience as we adapt to this routine.

This Procedure will be posted.

Visitor Access

Visitors or volunteers are permitted at Kinderschule, but must adhere to physical distancing (2 meters) and recommended hygiene practices when on the premises. As it is recommended that volunteering be limited, we will likely have little volunteer activity.

Public Health Measures at Kinderschule

The most effective measures to reduce the spread of COVID-19 include separating people by maintaining physical distance and the use of physical barriers. However, these measures are not practical in child care settings. Most effective is to use a layered approach including multiple measures.

Kinderschule staff will consistently follow personal preventive practices (i.e., environmental cleaning, conducting frequent hand hygiene) that decrease the number of interactions while increasing the safety of interactions that occur.

Children with no symptoms should continue to be treated as they typically would be treated by staff, but with physical distancing in place as much as possible. Where possible, we will arrange spaces to encourage the recommended separation. For example, spacing children to avoid close contact during snack time, and assigning a designated chair and table for each child.

HYGIENE PRACTICES

Handwashing with soap and water for at least **20 seconds** is the recommended hand hygiene practice in child care. Children must engage in frequent hand hygiene, including but not limited to the following times:

- at the start of the day and before going home,
- after a diaper change,
- before eating/drinking,
- after getting hands dirty,
- after wiping nose or handling dirty tissues,
- after coughing, sneezing or blowing nose.

Alcohol-based hand sanitizer is not permitted for use by children at Kinderschule, but is available on site to be used by adults (staff, parents/ guardians). If hands are visibly soiled, they should be washed with soap and water rather than an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

Respiratory etiquette will be modelled, taught and reinforced regularly. This includes coughing and sneezing into a tissue or sleeve, as well as proper and prompt disposal of any used tissues followed by hand hygiene.

Snack and Personal Items

No personal items (e.g. hats, hair accessories, lip balm, food/drinks) should be shared. Toys from home will not be allowed, with the exception of needed comfort toys. These must not be shared with others.

For snack, children will need to bring **individual snacks and water bottles labeled with their names**. Children will not be permitted to share food. The only exception will be for birthday celebrations or foods we make together at Kinderschule.

Cleaning

Kinderschule will engage in frequent, thorough cleaning and disinfection every day throughout the facility, including all toys that were used. The toys available are easily disinfected and dried (plastic). Plush toys, pillows and cushions have been removed. Books will not circulate in the classroom and we encourage you to make use of the Kinderschule books.

Library

The Kinderschule library will continue to operate as before. The sign-out sheet is on the shelf in front of the Kinderschule classroom. Books are now also on display above the long bench in the hallway. Those, or other labeled books from the Kinderschule supply cupboard, can be taken home at any time. It's open for your use!

For returns, please use the labeled "Book Return" bin in the hallway. We will sequester these books for three or more days.

Kinderschule Closure

The above prevention measures apply to Christoph and Hanna and our Subs as well. It is more likely than before that staff may not be available at some point during the year. In such circumstance, Kinderschule will be forced to temporarily close. All families will be notified by text or phone call as soon as possible. We regret that this may occur and hope for the best.

Outbreak Management

In the event that a case of COVID-19 is confirmed to be connected to a child care centre, public health will provide additional guidance including ensuring that appropriate supports are in place to coordinate the response. One confirmed case of COVID-19 in a child care setting would be considered an outbreak.

Public health actions and directions may include:

- contact tracing, which involves identifying contacts of a positive case and contacting those individuals,
- requesting records that identify cohorts/groups of staff and children in the child care setting for a specified time frame,
- testing of staff and children that may have been exposed to a positive case,
- assessing the need for enhancing environmental cleaning, and/or facility closure.