



Small Talk COVID-19 Safety Guidelines for Families

Please read the information below in its entirety and adhere to the guidelines to ensure the health and safety of everyone in the Small Talk community.

PREPARATION & REGULAR REMINDERS

Small Talk Staff has proper cleaning measures in place and adequate supplies, but we need your help:

- Encourage regular hand washing.
- Review and practice good hygiene and respiratory etiquette (e.g. Keep hands away from faces; coughing and sneezing into your sleeve / elbow) regularly.
- Maximize physical distancing whenever possible (e.g. “Keep body in your bubble”, “Let’s give them some space”)
- Minimize physical contact (e.g. Wave instead of close greetings such as hugs and handshakes).
- Prepare children for changes at Small Talk prior to returning (teachers in masks / face shields).
- Visuals and videos will be made available for your use.

BUILDING & PLAYGROUND ACCESS

ONLY authorized staff, children and visitors with scheduled appointments will enter the building. Playground area is restricted to staff and children only. **Please do NOT come through the front gate.** Visitors with appointments must use the office door / window in the southside of the building.

Please note that **all adults are required to wear a mask** to enter Small Talk premises as well as during drop off and pick up.

Washrooms will be available ONLY FOR CHILDREN DURING PROGRAM HOURS.

BEFORE LEAVING HOME

Please conduct a Daily Health Check using the VSB Daily Health Assessment (see reference) at home prior to leaving for Small Talk.

- If your child shows symptoms of common cold, influenza, COVID-19, or other infectious respiratory disease,



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- the child **MUST STAY HOME** until a health care provider excludes him/her of COVID-19 or other infectious diseases AND his/her symptoms have resolved.
- In addition, a child must stay home if
 - they have travelled outside of BC in the last 14 days.
 - they have had contact with a known COVID-19 case.
 - another person in their home has symptoms of common cold, influenza, COVID-19, or other infectious respiratory disease, even if your child does not show signs of being ill.
 - another person in their home has been advised by a doctor or other medical professional to self-isolate.
- If you are unsure of your child's timing to return, health condition, or if they have COVID-19-like symptoms, contact 8-1-1 for guidance. 8-1-1 is a free-of-charge provincial health information and advice phone line available in British Columbia.

Please do the following at home to minimize physical contact:

- Encourage your child to use the washroom before leaving home
- Apply sunscreen if necessary
- Administer any necessary medication

DROP-OFF & PICK-UP

We will identify a designated drop-off / pick-up location for each family. This is to avoid gatherings and maximize physical distancing.

- Please line-up with your child at a marked place and wait to be welcomed by a Small Talk Staff.
- Ensure you are 2-meters apart from the other families
- Masks should be worn by adults
- The Staff will conduct a mandatory daily verbal confirmation of your Daily Health Assessment and a quick temperature check; if any answers change, your child will need to return home immediately.
 - If we see symptoms at drop-off, you will need to return home with your child until symptoms have subsided or you all have been cleared by a health professional



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If your child becomes ill while at school, he/she will be guided to the top stairs outside the classroom emergency doors, where they will be supervised and supported by a staff until they are picked up by a parent/guardian.

- Parents/guardians will be notified and advised to pick-up their child as soon as possible. Please ensure that the Small Talk has your current contact information, including emergency contact information, to ensure timely pick-up.
- Also, please ensure that you are always accessible by phone during program hours and be prepared to pick-up your children.

THINGS TO BRING

Snack

- Please send readymade or easy to unwrap prepacked snacks in a disposable bag or reusable container for your child.
- We will not be sharing / providing snacks so please make sure your child brings enough to eat.
- A water bottle with closed lid

As an effort to facilitate smooth transitions and limit contamination, please do not bring non-essential items such as backpacks and home toys. Instead, on the first day of the program provide Staff with the following to keep in your child's cubby:

- 2 sets of clothes (Shirts, bottoms, underwear, raincoat, boots, muddy-body, socks, jacket, a towel)
- 1 pair of indoor shoes
- Any essential items such as Epi-pen and Asthma medicine

Please LABEL all items with your child's name

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

Please be aware that

- We may adjust the guidelines and communicate changes as needed.
- Small Talk may close without advanced notice as required by the health authority or at our Director's discretion at any time. Modification of service offering will be made as appropriate in such a situation.



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- While we are limiting physical distance and contact, we will be available via virtual communication for your concerns and support needs.

We appreciate your cooperation and understanding.

Should you have any questions, please contact us at
office@smalltalkbc.org

REFERENCES

WorkSafe BC's Child Care: Protocols for returning to operation

<https://www.worksafebc.com/en/about-us/covid-19-updates/covid-19-returning-safe-operation/child-care>

BC Centre for Disease Control's COVID-19 Public Health Guidance for Child Care Settings

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/health/about-bc-s-health-care-system/office-of-the-provincial-health-officer/covid-19/covid-19-pho-guidance-childcare.pdf>

VSB Daily Health Assessment

https://smalltalkbc.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/COVID-19-Safety-Guidelines-for-Families_Fall2020.pdf