



## **Blue Heron Montessori**

### **COVID 19 Policy and Information Document (UPDATES IN AFFECT September 1 2020)**

In light of the COVID-19 global pandemic, we feel it is important to clarify that Dr. Bonnie Henry has confirmed and encouraged childcares to remain open, where possible, to serve families that are needing childcare.

Blue Heron Montessori will continue to take guidance from updated protocols and procedures as outlined by the Health Authorities and CDC. This can be found at the following link:  
[https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/health/about-bc-s-health-care-system/office-of-the-provincial-health-officer/covid-19/covid-19\\_child\\_care\\_guidance\\_-\\_2020\\_may\\_15\\_-final.pdf](https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/health/about-bc-s-health-care-system/office-of-the-provincial-health-officer/covid-19/covid-19_child_care_guidance_-_2020_may_15_-final.pdf)

Given these important requirements, it is imperative that we are resolute in our health policy, and that all parents understand and agree to the following additional requirements:

#### **Provision of Care**

September 2020 we have three staff members, able to care for 16 children.

#### **Illness and Attendance**

Children may not attend Blue Heron Montessori if they exhibit any symptoms of respiratory illness or fever. Our pandemic health & wellness policy is attached. There are no exceptions to this illness policy.

Individuals residing in the household with any child attending Blue Heron Montessori are to be taking all precautions possible to limit their exposure to COVID-19.

## **Withdrawal and Temporary withdrawal**

Our facility had previously opted in to the temporary emergency funding (TEF program. This means that for our facility, parents had the option to attend, temporarily withdraw or permanently withdrawal. This remained in effect as long as were in receipt of the TEF program. At this time MCFD has ended the TEF program, and our regular policies have resumed. You can choose to attend, keep your child at home while paying full fees to save their space in the facility, or permanently withdraw. If you choose to permanently withdraw we require 30 days notice as per our regular policy and fees will be charged regardless if you choose to send your child or not within this time frame.

## **Arrival**

Parents should limit their time within the facility to only what is absolutely necessary, and maintain social distancing (2 metres from staff and other children).

**Monday mornings drop off will happen at the school to allow return of the child's plastic storage bin.**

**Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday drop off will happen at the toddler park down the lane.**

**Pick up will happen from the toddler park down the lane with the exception of Fridays to pick up plastic storage bin for cleaning and replenishing purposes. (This will continue until it is unsafe to do so as the days begin to get shorter and it is too dark to play outside in the afternoon.)**

Currently we have a natural staggered drop off from families. If overlap begins to occur with more than two families coming into the playground/school at a time we may ask you to wait in your vehicle or (2 metres) until you can see there is enough space to come in.

Please drop off your children right at the front door or playground gate. Ensure you checked in with an educator and sign off on the daily screening checklist. Your child will come in with the educator and will be helped to get ready independently. We will place their inside shoes right in front of their bins so they are staying in one area (when drop off happens at the school). Then they will need to come in and wash their hands before going straight to their individual areas to begin play. When dropping off at the playground children can come straight into the play area. Pick up will happen at the gate, parent will ensure to communicate with one of the educators before leaving with their child.

Children will be signed in by the educator.

## **Day to day functioning in the classroom**

Our hours of operation will now be **8 am - 5 pm**. If/when the pandemic situation changes, we may shorten the hours depending on how many children and staff we have to allow the appropriate sanitation.

Each family will need to bring in a large plastic storage bin with a lid. In this storage bin, your child will keep their extra clothing, their outdoor gear (except footwear, nap bags, and lunch kit. **(All belonging must fit inside the bin)**

Sunscreen is to be applied before arrival and will be reapplied before heading to the toddler park at 3 p.m. with the sunscreen you provide us until the weather begins to change. They are to arrive daily in appropriate outdoor gear including footwear and sunhats.

The bins will be kept along the wall by the front, where the children usually line up for outside time.

If muddy buddies get wet from outside time, they will be hung up to dry.

We will be spending the majority of our time outside at various parks, the field, and the beach as they continue to open to public use. We will still remain diligent with social distancing and may choose to move on to a different location if we do not deem it possible to do so. We will also continue to go on neighborhood walks.

We will be spacing children further out for rest time and sanitizing nap beds regularly with the recommended cleaning solution.

At this time we are not requiring the children/staff to wear face masks. It is your own personal choice if you wish for your child to wear one. Please be respectful of those who choose to partake in this safety precaution.

We will be asking the children to respect each-others boundaries, and we will be modeling this ourselves. Of course, there is only so much we can do in this respect so please be understanding.

Please have a conversation prior to bringing your child in respecting these boundaries.

To show our love we can wave, blow a kiss, make silly faces at each other, do dances for each other, etc,. There are many ways to still connect without hugging or touching our friends.

We will be using certain language with your children to address this. We recommend you use the same language at home to prepare your child. We will keep things age appropriate, but we will be honest with the children about the situation.

*"There is a virus that can make you very sick. The virus is like germs, it lives in your mouth and nose if you are sick. This virus is called COVID 19. This virus can make you cough lots and give you a fever. In some people, this virus can make them so sick they have to go to the hospital.*

*We are lucky because we are healthy. We have a special job to do while this virus is around. We are like heroes. To be a hero you need to keep your hands to yourself. To be a hero you need to keep your hands clean. To be a hero you need to stay home if you are sick. We know this can be different, and maybe hard, but being a hero is not easy. Being a hero takes a lot of work. We are here together being heroes, and your families are being heroes too."*

This is how we will approach it, and this is the language we will refer back to. If we get further questions about it, we will give the simplest answers possible, or ask them "Well, what do YOU think?"

We will not be mentioning death, nor will we be describing what is happening in other places in the world. We do not want to scare the children. We will be communicating with you about any conversations the children have that we feel need to be addressed by you at home.

## **Cleaning and Sanitation**

Following the current health authority guidelines for sanitation and care, our classroom is disinfected twice per day, using 1:9 ratio bleach sanitizer.

We will be putting away many of our materials that are difficult to sanitize.

In the classroom, there will be a selection of toys/ materials to play with and use. We will clean and sanitize these items daily. The items will also be changed out as needed, to keep things new and fresh. Each child will have their own table space to use, rugs will be cleaned weekly and reserved to individual use only.

For the well-being of children, staff and families, open transparency and candor is required around all the above requirements. Although this may lead to some challenging conversations, staff and families need to acknowledge and respect their necessity and their intention of care during the pandemic. We sincerely appreciate your compliance and understanding!

## **COVID Health and Wellness Policy**

Please remember that the Covid19 public health emergency is rapidly changing, and our ability to remain open may change without notice.

We do not recommend that children with any underlying health concerns attend child care programs during the Covid19 pandemic.

If your child is required to self isolate for 10 days, we will not be reimbursing childcare fees unless the government decides to reenact TEF funding.

Accordingly, please note the following Covid19 Health and Wellness policy, which applies to all staff and children within this facility.

Parents will additionally be asked to sign a statement each morning, confirming that their child is symptom free and that their child has not been given acetaminophen or ibuprofen in the last 12 hours.

<b>Symptom</b>	<b>May return when</b>
Temperature of 100 F / 37.8 C or higher (orally) or 99 F / 37.2 C or higher (under the arm)	May return to child care after 10 days or when symptom free, whichever is longer
Runny nose	May return to child care after 10 days or when symptom free, whichever is longer
Cough	May return to child care after 10 days

	or when symptom free, whichever is longer
Sore throat	May return to child care after 10 days or when symptom free, whichever is longer
Difficulty breathing or wheezing	May return to child care after 10 days or when symptom free, whichever is longer
Unexplained fatigue, aches or cold/flu-like symptoms	May return to child care after 10 days or when symptom free, whichever is longer
Sinus congestion	May return to child care after 10 days or when symptom free, whichever is longer
Children who have, or children with others living in the same home who have just returned from international travel	May return after self-isolating for 14 days <b>and</b> being symptom free
Children who have, or children with others living in the same home who have been identified as at-risk of potential Covid19 exposure	May return after self-isolating for 14 days <b>and</b> being symptom free

(Reference: Health Authority memo; COVID19 in childcare)

Additionally, our regular health and wellness policy stands:

Children may not attend child care programs while they have any of the following symptoms:

- unusual, unexplained loss of appetite, fatigue, irritability, or headache
- eye infections
- unexplained rashes or any rash that is not confirmed by doctor to be non-contagious
- known or suspected communicable diseases (measles, chicken pox, pink eye, hand foot and mouth, etc)
- ear infection
- nausea, vomiting and/or diarrhea in the last 48 hours

## **Withdrawal Explanation**

We are charging families \$1200 per month for care while your child attends.

*\*This reduced amount is based on the CCFRI we have been accepted to receive (not related to any pandemic funding). Should funding end, we will return to charging our full fee of \$1300\**

If you choose to keep your child home due to pandemic concerns, the full months fee will be charged you and you will still have your space to come back to.

*\*The Temporary Emergency Funding (7x CCOF) is canceled, and we have now reverted back to original policies. Families will be responsible for paying for the child's space regardless of attendance. The 30 day notice of termination will apply, meaning you must give us notice to avoid additional fees if you decide to permanently withdrawal.\**