



# First Years Learning Center Inc.

February 18, 2022

Dear Families,

On February 8, 2022, the Premier of Saskatchewan held a news conference about adjustments to the current Public Health Order. You can read more about that [here](#).

The province-wide public health order requiring proof of vaccination (POV) or a negative test before entering certain establishments was lifted at 12:01 AM on February 14, 2022. The Ministry of Education and the Government of Saskatchewan expects child care facilities to remove their requirements for mandatory vaccination. Effective February 14, 2022, this requirement was lifted at FYLC.

The Public Health Order requiring masking indoors and mandatory isolation for positive COVID-19 cases will expire at midnight on February 28, 2022. Effective March 1st, 2022, masks will no longer be required to attend or visit FYLC.

**Subsequent changes to the provincial Public Health Order will result in adjustments to operations at FYLC. The COVID-19 Policy at FYLC will be rescinded effective March 1, 2022. Please refer to our Communicable Diseases/Illnesses policy outlined below.**

While the Public Health Order will no longer be in place, FYLC will continue to be mask friendly. We encourage employees, parents and children over age three to consider mask use for as long as they feel it is necessary and based on their own personal risk assessment. As individuals, we are responsible for ensuring our actions do not put others at risk. FYLC serves a diverse community including those who are immunocompromised and young children who can not yet be vaccinated.

**The Government of Saskatchewan's news release indicated:**

*“Residents are encouraged to continue to help reduce the transmission of COVID-19, including wearing your best mask, taking advantage of free rapid testing, regular handwashing, staying home when ill and getting vaccinated, including your third/booster dose as soon as you are eligible.”*

All remaining public health orders will also be rescinded at the end of day February 28, 2022. This includes self-isolation for five days for those who have COVID-19 symptoms. The Government of Saskatchewan expects daycares to remove their requirements for mandatory vaccination/rapid testing and mask mandates when the Public Health Orders are rescinded.

Public Health continues to recommend that persons who test positive for COVID-19 should self-isolate for 5 days. If symptoms persist beyond five days individuals (whether or not tested) should stay home until their symptoms have been improving for 48 hours.



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**FYLC strongly endorses these recommendations as they support our priorities of a safe environment for our children and staff.**

As per our sick policy in the Parent Handbook, children who are showing symptoms of COVID-19 or other communicable illnesses will be sent home. Please refer to our Communicable Diseases/Illnesses policy outlined below.

## **Communicable Diseases/Illnesses**

*The intent of this policy is to reduce the acquisition and transmission of communicable diseases.*

*Daily health assessments of the children are conducted through direct observation, communication with the parent/guardian and conversations amongst our staff.*

*Our Educators note the following:*

- *A change in behaviour or appearance from those observed during the previous or current day*
- *Any skin rashes, itchy skin or scalp, mucus from eyes that returns after it has been wiped away*
- *An increase in the child's body temperature*
- *Any complaints of pain or not feeling well*

***Clusters of children or adults with similar symptoms (ie. vomiting/diarrhea) are reported to Public Health and any guidelines they impose must be followed by everyone.***

*A child who is showing or developing symptoms of an illness will be separated from the other children when possible. These symptoms are:*

- *sore throat, diarrhea, eye infection, headache, vomiting, and rash*
- *fever (37.9C or 99.9F)*
- *does not want/unable to participate in learning experiences with their group*

*A child's parent/guardian will be notified to have their child picked up within one hour to help prevent the spread of infection. Public Health has recommended that children not return to the center before 48 hours AFTER the child's last symptom.*

*If a parent/guardian fails to follow this policy, First Years Learning Center services may be suspended or terminated without notice.*

*The Director/Acting Leadership may refuse admission or readmission of a child at their discretion. The Public Health Department may be consulted for recommendations or, most often, a doctor's note may be requested prior to readmitting the child to the center.*



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*If a child is too ill to participate in our Learning Center program, including outdoor play, they cannot attend the center until they are well. If a child is showing or developing symptoms of an illness at home, please do not bring your child to the center. Please notify us of the illness so we may try to predict & prevent any further transmission.*

Thank you for your continued support as we learn to live with COVID-19.