

16 September 2021

To: The Director, Staff and Parents/Caregivers: PreCam Preschool, La Ronge

From: Dr Isaac Sobol: Medical Health Officer, Northern Population Health Unit

RE: Notice to Staff, and Parents: Exposure to COVID-19 & Required Measures – PreCam Preschool

Public Health has recently investigated case/s of COVID-19 at PreCam Preschool, La Ronge associated with one specific cohort of children.

Recently updated guidance from the Saskatchewan Ministry of Health (effective 15 September 2021) allows for an exemption to allow asymptomatic children who could be considered close contacts, to be able to continue attending school/daycare.

Therefore, those children in this class can continue to attend class if they remain without symptoms.

Self-isolation and School/Daycare Attendance: Children

- Children are permitted to attend school if they are asymptomatic. Other than attending school/daycare, the children are to maintain self-isolation at all other times (i.e no extracurricular activities and outings) until the 21st September 2021 at midnight.
- If a child attends both Preschool and a different daycare, they are permitted to attend both.
- If medically vulnerable, parents may choose to self-exclude their children until the 21st September 2021 at midnight.

Mask Use

- All staff and children older than 2 years of age must wear masks when at school/daycare.
- They are not required to wear a mask if seated and consuming food or a beverage, or while sleeping at daycare.
- Limit the entry of visitors or parents to the facility, and parents should wear masks at drop-off and pick-up.

Staff

- Staff working with this class who were exposed to the positive case, if not fully vaccinated, must self-isolate for 14 days from last exposure (ie until 21 September 2021).
- Staff who are fully vaccinated and symptomatic, must self-isolate, get tested and can return if negative and symptoms have resolved for 48 hours.
- Staff who are fully vaccinated and asymptomatic do not have to isolate.

Healthy People, Healthy Saskatchewan

The Saskatchewan Health Authority works in the spirit of truth and reconciliation, acknowledging Saskatchewan as the traditional territory of First Nations and Métis People.

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Testing

- Any child who becomes symptomatic should be isolated and arrangements for testing be able as soon as possible by calling Healthline 811.
- If negative, they should remain home and can only return if symptoms have resolved for at least 48 hours. If they test positive they will be required to isolate for at least 10 days (or as directed by Public Health).

Immunization

- All staff who are unvaccinated or partially vaccinated are to be strongly urged to become fully vaccinated as soon as possible.

Cohorting

- Cohort the group of impacted children within the preschool/daycare setting (e.g. exclude class from settings where classrooms mix such as assemblies or other multi-class activities).

Monitoring and Surveillance

- Preschool/Daycare should monitor for absenteeism and report to public health if several children are absent due to illness between now and the 21st September 2021.

I also strongly recommend that everyone who is eligible, gets both doses of a two-dose COVID-19 vaccine series, including all household members of children/students and staff members.

We understand this can be a challenging time for parents/guardians, staff and children. We appreciate your cooperation during this period.

Sincerely,

Dr. Isaac Sobol, Medical Health Officer