



## ECED Practicum COVID-19 Safety Plan

This plan pertains to Early Childhood Education (ECED) students enrolled in the [BC ECE Basic Certificate program](#) at UBC Vancouver. The practicum experience is required to meet the requirements for certification as an Early Childhood Educator (ECE). To meet the requirements of the certification body ([BC ECE Registry](#) in the BC Ministry of Children and Family Development) learning opportunities cannot be offered completely online. In order to engage in mandatory field experiences in a safe and conscientious manner, we are implementing protocols to ensure we can safely learn and work in early childcare settings while doing our part to limit the spread of COVID-19.

### COVID-19 Child Care Safety Measures

In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, during the practicum experience students are required to become familiar with and keep updated on COVID-19 Child Care Safety Measures as instructed by the:

- **BC Centre for Disease Control (CDC)**  
<http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/childcare-schools>
- **BC Ministry of Health's (MoH) 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>
- **WorkSafeBC Child Care: Protocols for Returning to Operation\***  
<https://www.worksafebc.com/en/about-us/covid-19-updates/covid-19-returning-safe-operation/child-care>

More information about Child Care Protocols can be found under the following headings:

- [Access to child care facilities](#)
- [Pick up and drop off](#)
- [Hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette](#)
- [Physical distancing](#)
- [Cleaning and disinfection](#)
- [Use of personal protective equipment \(PPE\)](#)
- [Meals and snacks](#)

*\*A PDF version is available*

### Before the Start of Practicum

All students must complete the following before the start of practicum:

- Take the [UBC COVID 19 Safety Plan/Training](#) and pass the quiz.
- Complete the **Canvas Practicum module on COVID-19 Safety Plan/Training** specific to Child Care protocols/measures (based on BC's CDC and the Ministry of Health) and pass the quiz on that module content prior to going into sites.
- Collect, sign, and submit the **site COVID-19 Safety Plan** from their respective practicum placement sites on the first day of practicum (see below).
- All other pre-placement requirements as noted on the **ECED Student Practicum Placement Checklist**.

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## Practicum Site COVID-19 Safety Plan

It is critical that all students understand that they **MUST** follow the safety plans for their practicum placement site, and our expectations as a practicum student from UBC. Students who do not will be removed from the practicum.

***On the first day of practicum, you must be provided with the placement site's COVID-19 Safety Plan\*.***

The purpose of the site's *COVID-19 Safety Plan* is to prevent the transmission of COVID-19, and to maintain healthy environments for children and staff during the COVID-19 pandemic. The site's *COVID-19 Safety Plan* must be available at the site and is mandated by the CDC, MoH, and WorkSafeBC (as detailed [here](#)).

\*Please submit a copy of the practicum site's *COVID-19 Safety Plan* (or COVID-19 Response Policy) via the Practicum Canvas shell in the section titled *Required Documents*, **with both YOUR signature and signature of your site supervisor and the date**. You may not begin practicum until this is completed.

***If you have concerns that a practicum site is not following protocols, you should contact the Faculty Practicum Advisor with a copy to the ECED Practicum Coordinator ([Dr. Berger](#)).***

## General Prevention of Exposure to COVID-19

Please be aware that you may be at risk of exposure to an infectious disease during your practicum term. As part of the infection control procedures, please orient yourself to the COVID-19 safety plan of your practicum site.

Additional information can be found on BC's Centre for Disease Control website @ [www.bccdc.ca](http://www.bccdc.ca)

Assess your health before attending on-site (in-person) activities.

Do not attend on-site (in-person) activities if you feel unwell, and alert your practicum site Supervisor and Faculty Practicum Advisor as soon as possible. We recommend that practicum students use the [BC COVID-19 Symptom Self-Assessment Tool](https://bc.thrive.health/covid19/en) (<https://bc.thrive.health/covid19/en>) on a daily basis and/or before leaving your home to participate in any on-site (in-person) activities.

Common COVID-19 symptoms according to the British Columbia Centre for Disease Control (BC CDC) are:

- Fever, chills
- Dry cough or worsening of chronic cough
- Sore throat
- Tiredness
- Shortness of breath
- Loss of taste/ smell

If you are experiencing any symptoms of COVID-19, you must self-isolate and contact 811. Contact tracing will be done by the Provincial Public Health Authority.

If a member of your household has symptoms of COVID-19, you are considered a 'close contact.' You will be given special instructions about how to monitor your own health, what to do if you start to feel sick and who to contact.

If you have traveled outside of Canada within the past 14 days, please self isolate and follow the instructions of the BCCDC or corresponding Provincial Public Health Authority.

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If Public Health directs you to self isolate, you must do so for the duration of their order.

## Physical distancing

- Limit close contact by keeping at least two metres (six feet) away from others.
- Obey all signage and directional markings on doors and floors. Avoid passing others on stairs whenever possible.
- When outside of your home, practice physical distancing.
- Avoid crowded places and non-essential gatherings.
- Greet people with a wave instead of a handshake.

It is recommended that all persons on site must maintain 2 metres distance at all times from anyone who is not a member of their household. In the event that other safety considerations require two people to be in close proximity to complete a given task, follow the WorkSafeBC approved plan of your practicum site. Anyone accessing buildings is encouraged to take precautions when navigating entrances/exits, corridors, and blind corners. If the maximum occupancy for an indoor space has been reached and another person attempts to enter the space, those already in the space should politely communicate this to the person attempting entry.

## Hand sanitizing

Please review the location of hand hygiene stations on your practicum site. These are commonly placed near the main entrances to buildings and by the elevators. Hand sanitizing with soap and water can be practiced in washrooms.

Sanitize your hands when entering the building and before leaving. Frequently wash your hands or use a hand sanitizer station throughout the day. In addition:

- Greet people with a wave instead of a handshake.
- Avoid touching your face except immediately after hand washing.
- Cough or sneeze into your own arm.

## Maintain a sanitized environment

Follow instructions given related to shared spaces or equipment. This may include cleaning with disinfectant before and after use, ensuring that any points of contact or potential contamination are covered.

## Non-Medical Masks

- Please follow the instructions of the COVID-19 safety plan provided by your practicum site. Follow the policies provided regarding the use of non-medical masks.
- Wearing a non-medical mask or face covering might help you to protect others. However, any mask, no matter how good it is at catching respiratory droplets or how well it seals, will have minimal effect if it is not used together with other preventive measures, such as frequent hand washing and physical distancing

For UBC's position on the use of non-medical masks, please visit: <https://srs.ubc.ca/covid-19/health-safety-covid-19/non-medical-masks/>

Students should make decisions around wearing a non-medical mask based on their own health and the requirements of their practicum site.

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## Safety concerns

As a worker, you have the right to refuse unsafe work if you have reasonable cause to believe that performing a job or task puts you or someone else at risk; you must not perform the job or task. You must immediately notify your practicum site supervisor, who will then take the appropriate steps to determine if the work is unsafe and remedy the situation.

All practicum students are encouraged to discuss safety concerns with their [Faculty Practicum Advisor](#), and as necessary, their [Practicum Coordinator](#).