

## ACCESS

### **Q1: How is Tier 2 defined for families that can return?**

A: Tier 2 is defined by the Province of BC's list of essential service workers. This list was developed by Emergency Management BC in consultation with other government ministries and the Provincial Health Officer (PHO). This list may be updated as government's response to COVID-19 evolves.

Specific to UBC, the Province has defined Tier 2 as:

- Educational institutions—including public and private K-12 schools, and public post secondary institutions—for purposes of facilitating remote learning or performing essential functions, including services that are needed to ensure the safety, security, welfare, integrity and health of the community, property and research and certain operational and contractual activities.

### **Q2: What is the priority of Tier 2 families? (Example: a program has 10 Tier 2 families - how will the priority be defined?)**

A: The Provincial Health Officer has advised families to keep their children at home if they can do so.

A variety of factors are taken into consideration including:

- Family's self-identified desired start date
- Whether there is anyone else in the family home available to provide child care
- Families with children who have extra support needs
- Families working with the Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD)
- Families who's work has been deemed crucial by their department heads, etc.

### **Q3: With a return to research on campus, are research staff, faculty and post docs included in Tier 2? How are the spots determined for Tier 2? (is it Faculty first, or offices that are open on campus?)**

A: See definition of tier two and answers above

### **Q4: How long will this temporary COVID child care be provided? Will it stop once a state of emergency is lifted in the province?**

A: UBCCCS is in receipt of Temporary Operating Funding (TEF) from the Provincial Government. For facilities that opt-in to receive TEF, including both open facilities and temporarily closed facilities, the arrangements outlined in these guidelines, as applicable, will remain in place until such time as the Ministry notifies facilities otherwise. Upon opting-in to receive TEF, facilities cannot unilaterally opt out and revert to the previous Funding Agreement provisions.

### **Q5: How can I find out where I am on the waiting list for a return to my child's program?**

A: Providing all goes well in terms of safe and healthy operations at UBCCCS, and depending on how British Columbia continues to fare on reducing the transmission rate of COVID-19, our hope is to continue to expand slowly every two to four weeks. Please direct your questions about enrollment to Bev Christian at [bev.christian@ubc.ca](mailto:bev.christian@ubc.ca).

### **Q6: I've heard Child Care Services reference a goal to increase enrolment to roughly half of their pre-COVID capacity. Is there a plan or timeline as to when these spots will be available?**

A: UBCCCS's goal is to provide child care services up to the maximum available capacity. This, of course, is subject to the availability of sufficient staffing and to the facility being able to implement required measures to ensure the health and safety of children and staff in accordance with advice from the Provincial Health Officer. Providing UBCCCS can meet these subjects we will continue to expand slowly every two to four weeks. It is important to note that there have been natural withdrawals; not all families are wanting to return to childcare during the pandemic and there will be normal attrition due to children aging out by September.

**Q7: If I decline a spot when UBC is opening up for Tier 2, will I lose my spot at the daycare?**

A: No. The Provincial Health Officer has advised families to keep their children at home if they can do so. Being in receipt of the Temporary Emergency Funding (TEF) from the Province of BC, UBCCCS is required to:

- Agree to the temporarily modified terms and conditions of the CCOF Funding Agreement set out in the Ministry's Modification Agreement, which includes:
  - Offering families the ability to return to their original space that they occupied immediately prior to the COVID-19 pandemic once the pandemic situation subsides;

**Q8: I did not fill out the survey, what should I do if I require child care?**

A: Contact Bev Christian at [bev.christian@ubc.ca](mailto:bev.christian@ubc.ca)

**Q9: Is UBCCCS accepting new applications? What about applications from children with siblings already in the UBCCS system?**

A: Once all existing families have been placed back in care, the child care team will work with the waitlist. UBCCCS continues to accept new applications and maintain a waitlist.

**Q10: How long will UBCCCS hold my child's space for if we choose not to return due to the COVID-19 pandemic? How much notice will families be given that they need to return or will lose their spot?**

A: The Provincial Health Officer has advised families to keep their children at home if they can do so. Being in receipt of the Temporary Emergency Funding from the Province of BC, UBCCCS is required to agree to the temporarily modified terms and conditions of the CCOF Funding Agreement set out in the Ministry's Modification Agreement, which includes offering families the ability to return to their original space (if they are still eligible) that they occupied immediately prior to the COVID-19 pandemic once the pandemic situation subsides.

**Q11: Where can I find contact information for alternative child care providers who are offering temporary emergency care to ESW during the COVID-19 pandemic?**

A: West Coast Child Care Resource and Referral maintains a list of Child Care Providers who are offering temporary emergency care to ESW during the COVID-19 pandemic - <https://www.wstcoast.org/>. A full list of all Child Care Providers in BC who are offering temporary emergency care to ESW during the COVID-19 pandemic can be found here: [https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/family-and-social-supports/child-care/child-care-operating-funding/covid19/tef\\_open\\_facility\\_info-final.pdf](https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/family-and-social-supports/child-care/child-care-operating-funding/covid19/tef_open_facility_info-final.pdf)

## HEALTH AND SAFETY

**Q12: What safety protocols are in place for child care staff and children in their care?**

A: UBCCCS has approved Work Safe BC and VCH health and safety protocols in place. These protocols are emailed to families upon confirmation of enrolment, posted in the programs and available on the Child Care Website.

**Q13: What is the expectation of parents when dropping off and picking up their child?**

A: A parent protocol document has been created as part of UBCCCS's approved Work Safe BC health and safety protocols. These protocols are emailed to families upon confirmation of enrollment, posted in the programs and available on the Child Care Website.

**Q14: Does UBCCCS expect the children to socially distance when they return to daycare?**

A: Children are not the primary drivers of COVID-19 spread in child care facilities, schools or community centres. Maintaining physical distance is impractical for younger children, and the focus will be on minimizing physical contact and hand washing instead. Adults will be required to physically distance at all times – this includes educators and parents/guardians.

**Q15: Will daycare staff be wearing PPE when children return?**

A: Personal protective equipment, such as masks and gloves are not needed in the child care setting, beyond those used by educators as part of regular precautions for the hazards normally encountered in their regular course of work. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is the last and least effective of the infection prevention and exposure control measure and should only be considered after exploring all other measures. PPE is not effective as a stand-alone preventive measure, should be suited to the task, and must be worn and disposed of properly. UBCCCS will be implementing a combination of measures at different levels, as described in their approved Worksafe BC health and safety Protocols document. Early Childhood Educators can elect to wear non-medical masks if they wish.

## ADMINISTRATION

**Q16: Do parents need to sign a new contract?**

A: Yes. New COVID-19 contracts will be sent out with childcare offers.

**Q17: I understand UBCCCS is receiving emergency government funding. Has the government given any indication when that funding will end?**

A: For facilities that opt-in to receive Temporary Emergency Funding (TEF), including both open facilities and temporarily closed facilities, the arrangements outlined in these guidelines, as applicable, will remain in place until such time as the Ministry notifies facilities otherwise. Upon opting-in to receive TEF, facilities cannot unilaterally opt out and revert to the previous Funding Agreement provisions. The TEF is in an interim measure during the COVID-19 pandemic, subject to notice of change or cancellation (as described in the Funding Agreement) depending on how the situation evolves. The Ministry is committed to communicating any upcoming changes to child care facilities to allow time for them to adjust operations.

**Q18: If centres need to close due to staffing issues, will families be refunded money for days that the daycare is closed?**

A: UBCCCS is working with enhanced staff /child ratios that will aid in mitigating this risk. In the event of a COVID-19 outbreak, if UBCCCS is receiving TEF from the Provincial Government, families will not be charged for the closure period. If UBCCCS is not receiving TEF from the Provincial Government, section L.2. of the child care agreement states that “Child Care Services will not be liable to the Parent in the event the centre is not able to operate or is operating at reduced capacity due to circumstances beyond its control including without limitation, COVID-19 or other community illness, labour disruption, inclement weather or other acts of God, or government action”.

## **GENERAL/CARE**

**Q19: When children return to UBCCCS, will they return to the same centre? What if they have aged out of the centre?**

A: Wherever possible children will be offered care in the same centre in which they were previously enrolled. For temporary essential services care, parents will be given the option to enroll in a different centre if their own centre is not available. Where children have aged out of their centre they will be offered care for the next age group where space is available. It is anticipated that all children turning three years old in the fall months will receive offers of care in 3-5 centres.

**Q20: When children return to UBCCCS, do they need to do gradual entry?**

A: No. Due to the necessity to provide care to the children of essential service workers, gradual entry will not be required at this time. If families would like to participate in a gradual entry process, they can work with the senior educator in their child’s program to organize for this.

**Q21: What will gradual entry look like if parents are not allowed in the daycare centre buildings?**

A: Parents will not be allowed in the childcare programs as per UBCCCS’ approved Work Safe BC safety protocols in place during the pandemic. If families would like to participate in a gradual entry process, they can work with the senior educator in their child’s program to organize for this.

**Q22: With UBCCCS no longer preparing food or drink for the children in care, how much help will children be given at meal / snack times?**

A: UBCCCS will no longer be providing food for snack as per pre-COVID-19 practices. Early childhood educators will continue to provide 100% assistance to the children in all aspects of their care at all times including serving the food that the parents provide for their children.

**Q23: If parents are not allowed in the building, how are children signed in / out?**

A: Each day, an early childhood educator records attendance when a child arrives and does a daily health check with the child’s parent. The educator will record (sign-in) the child’s name, an affirmation that the health check has been completed and any other information that needs to be recorded for that day. The early childhood educators will keep a record that a child has been picked up by their parent or caregiver and the time they were picked up.

**Q24: UBCCCS has shared that most of the child's day will be spent outside. How long will they spend outside if it is cold / raining?**

A: The CDC recommends for children to be outside often, including for learning activities, snack time and play time. This is one of the recommended environmental measures to aid in mitigating the transmission of COVID-19. UBCCCS has historically prioritized the importance of being outdoors often as one of its core philosophical values pre-COVID-19. UBCCCS' Early Childhood Educators are professionals with years of experience working in the field of Early Childhood Care and Education. UBCCCS is confident in the educators' ability to make sound decisions regarding how long they will spend outdoors.

**Q25: UBCCCS mentioned that no one will be permitted to enter the facility with any symptoms of a common cold .... [but] may return to the program once they are assessed by a physician/nurse practitioner. A note will be required from a health care provider prior to returning to the facility. What can I do about this? Does this mean the previous 10-day waiting period is no longer in effect?**

A: The CDC requires the following personal measures:

- Daily Checks for Respiratory Illness and Staying Home When Sick
- All parents, caregivers, children and staff who have symptoms of COVID-19 **OR** travelled outside Canada in the last 14 days **OR** were identified by Public Health as a close contact of a confirmed case **must stay home and self-isolate.**
- **Parents and caregivers** must assess their child daily for symptoms of common cold, influenza, COVID-19, or other infectious respiratory disease before sending them for child care.
- Children who are ill, including children of essential service providers, should not be permitted to attend child care.
- **Staff** must assess themselves daily for symptoms of common cold, influenza, or COVID-19 prior to working and stay home if they are ill.
- **Child care providers:**
  - Must clearly communicate with parents and caregivers to assess their children daily for symptoms before sending them for child care.
  - Must establish procedures for children and staff who become sick while at the facility.
  - Should conduct daily checks for respiratory illness at drop-off by asking parents and caregivers to confirm that the child does not have symptoms of common cold, influenza, COVID-19, or other respiratory disease.
  - If a parent, caregiver or staff member is unsure if they or a child should self-isolate, they should be directed to use the BC COVID-19 Self-Assessment Tool, contact 8-1-1 or the local public health unit. They can also be advised to contact a family physician or nurse practitioner to be assessed for COVID-19 and other respiratory diseases.

**Q26: Will the August closure still go ahead for those daycares that usually close?**

A: Yes

**Q27: Will children still be able to do their regular activities e.g. painting, drawing, playing with lego / duplo / magnets / daycare toys?**

A: Yes. UBCCCS Early Childhood Educators will set up small group environments to reduce the number of children in a group. For example, they will set up 2 or 3 areas for art and materials explorations, and incorporate more individual activities or activities that encourage more space between children and staff. They will also remove toys that encourage group play in close proximity or increase the likelihood of physical contact and keep toys that encourage individual play.

**Q28: Will children still nap inside? Has there been a change to the configurations of the daycare?**

A: Please connect with the Senior Educator as all programs are different. Pre COVID-19, some programs had children sleeping inside and some programs had children sleeping outside.

**Q29: Will daycare staff still assist with potty-training?**

A: Early Childhood Educators will continue to engage in sensitive caregiving just as they did prior to COVID-19.