

Essential Service Worker Care in Greater Victoria Schools

What does essential service worker care look like in the Greater Victoria School District?

Our school district continues to be adaptable during these unprecedented times. We understand that we have an integral role in our community and continue to look for ways we can support our essential service workers as they continue to protect us, maintain essential services, and restart the economy. Over the past six weeks, we have successfully kept 15 schools open to serve the children of essential service workers. We are now preparing to welcome more students into our schools.

The school district started offering care at schools in April, prioritizing tier one essential service workers. Starting May 19th, all of our elementary and middle schools will be offering care services to accommodate the needs of various essential service workers' children.

What is school care? When is it offered?

We are offering care along with instruction to children of essential service workers (ESW) in our school classrooms for children from 5 -12 years of age.

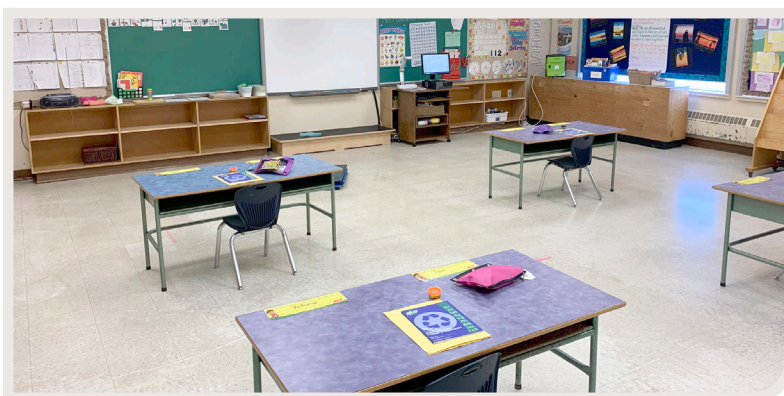
While we are offering care outside of the school day for the next few weeks, SD61 ESW care will be limited to the regular hours once other before and after school programs resume. We anticipate more childcare providers will be available for before and after school care starting June 1st, as part of BC's Restart Plan.

It is important to note that school care needs to be scheduled for safety. Schools cannot accommodate drop-ins. Weekends, Professional Development Days and statutory holidays are not included.

What does school care look like?

The health and safety of our students and staff is always our top priority.

Children are assigned to a classroom or learning space that is set up to follow the latest safety protocols from our public health officials.



Essential Service Worker *Care Snapshot*



During school care students work on instructional activities that have been assigned by the teachers and complete individualized projects including arts and crafts, creative writing, or math and science activities, such as seed planting.

Students also engage in outdoor activities like nature walks.

How do we know it's safe?

Following the guidelines of our Public Health Officer and BC Centre for Disease Control (BCCDC), if a staff member or child feels sick we require them to stay home. In addition, we have implemented strict protocols relative to hand washing, distancing between adults, and sneezing and coughing etiquette. Educational Assistants and Teachers are following our school site procedures to ensure they are minimizing the possibility of infection and illness.

Custodians are also following the BCCDC and Ministry of Education guidelines for cleaning protocols.

How do families register?

The District issued a survey to staff and parents/guardians to determine families need for care. Schools will be connecting with families who indicated they require care.

If you require care and did not participate in the survey, please contact your school Principal. They will be able to provide you with a registration form. A registration form is required for each child attending. Upon confirmation that a child is enrolled, the school Principal will provide instruction for the first day (what entrance to use, where to sign-in, etc.).

The number of students in a learning space is limited, and determined by the space available, e.g., square footage per student to ensure safe distancing.

Educational Assistants and Teachers facilitate the care. Programming varies from school to school, however, all schools are following **Public Health Guidelines for K-12 Settings** and **WorkSafe BC's safety measures**.



Essential Service Worker *Care Snapshot*

Are meals provided for children?

Children are required to bring their own food (lunch and snacks, water bottle, utensils). No food is provided. All food garbage will be pack in / pack out. Children must put their wrappers, juice boxes etc. back in their lunch boxes to go back home for recycling. Custodians are focusing on cleaning protocols and not waste management.

To create a comfortable environment for students, families are also invited to bring a blanket or pillow, if they wish. Students are welcome to bring their own devices to support their learning.

What if I need care but am not part of your school district?

Care is being offered in all school districts beginning May 19th. We advise you contact your child's home school district first, before requesting care from SD61.

We're excited to expand ESW care to benefit children's learning and do our part to re-open BC. We hope to see you soon!

