

Supported Child Development and Aboriginal Supported Child Development Interim Policy Changes in Response to COVID-19: Q & As

Policy Change #1: SCD and ASCD programs will *no longer* be required to prioritize service for children of essential service providers

1. When will this policy be effective?

Effective August 31, 2020, SCD and ASCD programs will no longer be required to prioritize essential service providers

2. How will children of essential service providers be supported by SCD and ASCD after August 31, 2020?

SCD and ASCD programs are expected to implement a 3-6 month grace period to continue supports for children of essential service providers not previously on caseload. If there are wait times for support, children should be placed in a fair place on the wait list based on when they were identified during the SCD/ASCD COVID-19 Interim Policy Changes.

Policy Change #2: School-age children of essential service providers who are receiving in-own-home care will *no longer* be eligible for SCD staffing supports during school hours

1. When will this policy be effective?

Effective September 10, 2020, SCD and ASCD programs will no longer provide support to essential service providers who are receiving in-own-home care during school hours.

2. Can SCD staffing supports be provided for families who choose an alternative to in-class instruction?

Students in BC will return to in-class learning on September 10, 2020. Like every September, parents have options for their child's education. Parents may choose an alternative to in-class instruction but in-own-home care supports may not be in place during school hours. Additional information on options for returning to school can be found on the following Ministry of Education website: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/education-training/k-12/covid-19-return-to-school>

Policy Change #3: SCD Support Workers will *no longer* be restricted to working in more than one child care centre.

1. Can medically fragile children who are immune-compromised be moved to a temporary in-own-home SCD support arrangement?

When it is not possible to reduce the risk for an immune-compromised child in a child care centre, the SCD/ASCD program will use their clinical judgement and may consider temporary in-own-home supports. It must be made clear to the family that this arrangement is temporary, and that it will benefit the child to return to inclusive child care once it is safe to do so.

Parents of children with immune-compromised medically fragile children that place them at heightened risk for COVID-19 should consult with their primary health-care provider to consider the health risks and make a decision about their SCD/ASCD support arrangements.

2. What are the safety protocols for working in more than on child care centre?

Employers are required to develop a [COVID-19 Safety Plan](#) that outlines the policies, guidelines, and procedures they have put in place to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission. Employers must involve frontline workers, joint health and safety committees, and supervisors in identifying protocols for their workplace.

When entering multiple child care centres, SCD/ASCD staff should follow each centre's COVID-19 policies. *Work Safe BC Child Care Protocols for returning to operation* may be found at: <https://www.worksafebc.com/en/about-us/covid-19-updates/covid-19-returning-safe-operation/child-care>

3. Should Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) be worn?

PPE, such as masks and gloves are not mandated in BC child care settings, beyond those used by staff as part of regular precautions for the hazards normally encountered in their regular course of work. 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. Information on the use of PPE should be covered in the COVID-19 Safety Plan for SCD/ASCD organization or child care centre SCD/ASCD staff are working in. It is recommended that staff discuss these plans with their employer and the management of the child care centres they are working in. General information can also be found in the following resource: [COVID-19 Public Health Guidance for Child Care Settings](#)

Policy Change #4: Grace Period to Support Families in Re-establishing Employment**1. When should a grace period be implemented?**

Effective August 31, 2020, SCD and ASCD are expected to implement a grace period of up to 6 months to continue to support families already on caseload who have lost their employment or education status.

2. How will this interim policy benefit families?

This grace period will facilitate access to inclusive child care for children already on SCD or ASCD caseload while parents work to re-establish their employment or education status.

3. How will this grace period impact the program's budget?

This grace period is for families already on caseload only and they will already be accounted for in the program budget. However, depending on how long physical distancing measures are in effect/child care centres remain closed, this grace period may create challenges to programs in budgeting for new children coming off the waitlist, particularly if it falls near the beginning or end of the school year.

If you have questions, please contact MCF.ChildrenYouthSpecialNeeds@gov.bc.ca