



COVID IMPACTS ON FALL PROGRAMMING

September 2020

The COVID pandemic has had major impacts on the programming that is provided by Rainbow Youth Centre Inc. (RYC). Many services usually provided by RYC have been scaled back somewhat and many services have had to be discontinued altogether. With Fall being the traditional start of a new programming cycle it was thought prudent to try and put together an Outline and Plan of what that Fall programming might look like. This document is a collaborative effort between Rainbow staff and management to try and implement some risk mitigation strategies that will allow some programming to continue within a safe environment.

The document is divided into four sections corresponding to the four programming areas currently offered by RYC as well as four appendices. The four programming areas are KidsFirst; Road to Employment; Youth Care; and Young Parent Program. The four appendices are Transportation Guidelines; Childcare Guidelines; Cleaner Guidelines; and General Guidelines.

The following guidelines describe our current state of operations and our plan for RYC services offered during the fall of 2020. Of course, the plan assumes that the COVID situation remains pretty much as it is now and that there are no new Public Health Orders issued or new recommendations from Saskatchewan Health. Should the COVID situation deteriorate dramatically, it may be necessary to amend or suspend programs offered at RYC and perhaps even ask staff to work from home as we did during the first three months of the COVID pandemic.

RYC is planning to implement the above plans for the fall programming period September to December 2020. It is anticipated that a review of these measures will be undertaken in the winter of 2020, probably in December. The programming and COVID measures taken at that time will be updated based on our operating experience and any new guidance provided by Saskatchewan Health.

We recognize that there certainly are challenges in delivering our RYC programs within a COVID environment. However, given the technology that is now available; the safety guidelines and measures that are or will be in place; and our commitment and dedication to delivering these valuable programs; we are optimistic and confident that our efforts will be successful and effective.

KidsFirst (KF)

KF is a program funded by Saskatchewan Health Authority in agreement with the Ministry of Education. The purpose of the program is to provide home visiting services as well as early learning and family support to families with children who are vulnerable. Traditionally, this has meant providing services to families assigned by KidsFirst Regina. These services include a home visiting program to implement parent and child development curriculum; provide emotional and social supports; and to link families to natural support systems in their communities.

Practically, it has meant staff conducting home visits with clients as well as providing occasional transportation services. There has also been a Play Group for children of clients where staff will pick-up the children and bring them to the RYC centre where the children are allowed to play in a supervised childcare area.

Because of COVID, no home visits have been conducted by staff since March 30, 2020. Virtual home visits and telephone visits and physically distanced outdoor in-person visits have been conducted. No pick-up of clients or children has occurred and no office visits have taken place. No Play Group activity has occurred. Staff have regularly dropped materials off to clients at their home.

Currently, KF staff are working from the office. We have protocols in place regarding physical distancing in staff's movement in the office and sanitizing surfaces. All staff are required to pass the COVID-19 self-assessment before they come into the office or have any in-person contact with families. Staff are required to stay home if they are sick and are sent home if they exhibit any COVID-19 symptoms.

Visits are conducted by phone or video if families have the technology necessary. If families do not have the technology or they are hard to engage by phone or video, the option of outdoor in-person visits is offered. These visits only take place if families pass the COVID-19 self-assessment tool and physical distancing is possible. If family members are sick, the outdoor visits do to ahead.

As of September 2020, it is thought that home visiting services should not yet be provided but in-office visits should occur to replace outdoor visits as the weather becomes too cold. Phone and virtual visits should continue where in-office visits are not possible. Both staff and some clients are concerned with the health risks of home visits and we feel it is not safe to start the home visits yet. Home Visits will start again when there is no long a need for physical distancing to prevent the spread of COVID-19. The Play Group should be started up again and children should be picked up and dropped off in RYC vehicles. Drop-off of books and materials and occasional client transportation may be provided.

KidsFirst (continued)

The COVID mitigation strategies that will be used for these three areas of activity are as follows:

In-Office Visits

- KF staff may begin scheduling in-office visits with clients beginning September 8, 2020
- Clients must pass a COVID self-assessment test before coming to RYC. The questions will be posed to them verbally by staff and are taken from the Saskatchewan COVID self-assessment tool.
- All in-office visits with clients must be conducted in either the Hive Room or the Rainbow Room
- These rooms must be booked in advance for these visits by manually recording on a calendar that will be placed in each room
- Staff may use RYC vehicles to provide transportation for clients
- Only one person seated in a row of seats within a vehicle unless there are two people from the same family who may sit together in one row
- Vehicles will be cleaned and sanitized after the visit is completed by cleaning and disinfecting common touch areas within the vehicle as per the transportation guidance in the Re-Open Saskatchewan Plan produced by the Saskatchewan Government
- Staff and clients must wear masks while in the vehicle
- Staff and clients must wear masks when entering and exiting the RYC building
- Clients must wash hands prior to entering the visit room
- Once the staff and clients have reached the room scheduled for the visit, masks may be removed if two-metre distancing is practiced
- The meeting room must be cleaned and disinfected by the staff prior to transporting the client back home
- Masks must be put back on by staff and clients when leaving the meeting room

Play Group

- Beginning Monday September 28, 2020 the Play Group will restart
- Childcare staff may use RYC vehicles to pick-up and drop-off children for the play group
- Children who are sick are not permitted to attend Play Group. Staff should remind parents of this requirement
- Masks must be worn by staff while in the vehicle. Masks are not required for children.
- Vehicles will be cleaned after the children are dropped off by cleaning and disinfecting common touch areas within the vehicle as per the transportation guidance in the Re-Open Saskatchewan Plan.

KidsFirst (continued)

- Child safety seats will have a disposable paper placed upon them for transporting children. The paper will be disposed at the end of the session.
- Common touch areas of the Child safety seats will be cleaned and sanitized.
- As per the Child Care Facilities Guidelines “Checking temperatures, detailed screening or requiring COVID-19 testing of children and staff are not required or recommended at this time”
- Masks must be worn by staff while supervising children in the Childcare Area of RYC. Masks are not required for children
- Staff will minimize the frequency of direct physical contact with children and should encourage children to minimize physical contact with one another
- Staff and children should not share food, drinks, bottles, etc. Label any personal items with the child’s name to discourage accidental sharing
- Any snacks or food served should be in individual portions served by a staff member
- Any utensils used should be individual disposable plastic
- Cleaning and disinfecting of any toys used by children and any common touch areas must be done after the Play Group has ended
- Wear disposable gloves when cleaning bloody or body fluids (runny nose, vomit, urine, etc)

Drop-Off and Occasional Client Transportation

- Staff are not required to wear masks in the vehicle if they are alone
- Staff must wear a mask if they are in the vehicle with another staff member
- Staff and clients must wear masks while in the vehicle
- Only one person seated in a row of seats within a vehicle unless there are two people from the same family who may sit together in one row
- The 15-passenger van may be occupied by two or more families provided that only members of the same family are seated on the same row of seats
- Vehicles will be cleaned and sanitized after the transportation service is over

Road to Employment (RTE)

RTE is a program funded by the Ministry of Immigration and Career Training intended to address the personal, academic and employment concerns of a chosen number of participants (16 this cycle) who are between the ages of 18-25. Its main objective is to reduce barriers to employment.

Practically, it is an on-premise classroom situation where participants are taught various subjects and topics. These include academic subjects sufficient to enable them to pass the GED exam; life skills and communication skills; as well as teaching employability and driving education and driving practice.

The participants are scheduled to begin their training September 8, 2020 within the following parameters:

- Participants are required to enter the RYC building using the side door entrance facing 4th Avenue
- Participants will be asked the COVID health questions prior to entering the building
- Participants are required to wash hands prior to entering the classroom
- Participants are required to wear masks when entering and exiting the building and when they are walking through the building
- Eight of the participants will be located in the RTE Classroom along with one instructor
- Eight of the participants will be located in the gym area along with one instructor
- Two-metre distancing will be maintained within the classroom between staff and participants and between one participant and another
- Masks may be removed within the classroom
- Lunch is not provided to participants
- Each participant will have an individual water bottle and will be allowed to fill it from a supplied water cooler
- The participant will be instructed to clean the water cooler areas that have been touched with a disinfecting wipe that will be provided
- The participants will be instructed not to share books, materials, or equipment
- Participants will be assigned the same seating arrangement each day
- Participants will use the bathrooms on the gym level
- No masks are required for bathroom visits from gym-level participants
- Masks are required for bathroom visits from RTE-level participants
- Only one person will be allowed in the bathroom at one time
- Signage will be posted in each bathroom explaining proper hand washing techniques
- Start and departure times will be staggered in order to avoid congestion

Road to Employment (continued)

- Any external presenters or consultants are required to wear masks when entering and exiting the building
- Masks are required by participants and by the instructor for any in-car driving instruction
- Masks are required by staff and participants when travelling in a vehicle together
- Only one person seated in a row of seats within a vehicle unless there are two people from the same family who may sit together in one row

Youth Care (YC)

Youth Care is an internal category that covers a number of different programs and funders. The largest funder is the Ministry of Justice and Attorney General followed closely by Saskatchewan Health Authority. The City of Regina, United Way, and Community Initiatives Fund also contribute to programs offered within Youth Care.

Traditionally, Youth Care has offered a number of programs to youth aged 11-19. These programs include an after-school drop-in service; a Supper program; an Evening Learning Activities program; a Saturday volunteer program; Sports and Recreation programs, Cultural programs, etc. Most of the programs have been offered within the premises of RYC but there are some where the staff and participants go off-premise for sports and recreational activities or volunteer activities.

Currently, Youth Care programming is being delivered four days per week from 3:45 pm to 7:45 pm to participants who have been pre-registered. The programming includes physical activities; literacy skills practice; communication skills practice; games playing; and the supper program. There is no unregistered drop-in and no off-premise group activities are being delivered.

Youth Care programming will continue to be delivered during the fall of 2020. Youth will be required to register for a five-week period commencing August 31, 2020. Another four or five-week period registration will be conducted at the end of the first period. The number of youth allowed in the facility at any one time shall not exceed ten. No unregistered drop-in will be offered and it is unclear whether group outings can be offered or not. Right now, the guidelines in Re-Open Saskatchewan Plan state that “recreational travel requiring vehicles, such as field trips, is not permitted at this time”. This situation will be monitored and if restrictions are lifted, some group activities involving transportation may be offered.

The COVID mitigation strategies that will be implemented are as follows:

- Staff will greet youth outside the RYC building by the side door
- Youth are asked the COVID questions
- Youth put on their masks and enter the building
- Youth wash their hands and are let into the bathroom one at a time
- Youth enter the gym area where there is assigned seating that is distanced two-metres apart
- Youth may remove their masks in the gym area if two-metre distancing can be maintained
- Staff are not required to wear masks
- The supper meal is served to the youth by staff

Youth Care (continued)

- The meal has been prepared by the cook and packaged in individual serving portions
- Any serving dishes or containers used are either disposable or can be washed
- Any cutlery used is either disposable or can be washed
- Youth visits to bathrooms are limited to one person at a time
- Youth should not share any equipment/supplies/materials
- Staff will clean and disinfect the gym area each night after the activities are ended
- There is no scheduled transportation service for youth however occasional transportation may be required
- Masks must be worn in the vehicles by staff and participants
- Only one person seated in a row of seats within a vehicle unless there are two people from the same family who may sit together in one row
- Vehicles to be sanitized after each use

Young Parent Program (YPP)

YPP is a program funded by Canada Health through the Community Action Plan for Children. Its primary objectives are to promote the health and development of children and strengthen parenting skills and family capacity. Traditionally, this program has been delivered at RYC on-premise through a couple of weekly workshops with parents to teach various child development topics and effective parenting techniques. Childcare is provided to the children while the parents are attending a session.

A two-day workshop entitled “Nobody’s Perfect Parenting Program” will be offered on September 21 and 22 from 11:00 am to 4:00 pm. Registration is required. Childcare and a meal will be provided on those two days.

Starting Tuesday, September 29, 2020 the program “Connecting the Dots” will be delivered from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm to a maximum of 6 participants who have pre-registered for this program. No drop-in participants will be allowed. Transportation and Childcare services will be provided as will a meal.

Starting Thursday, September 10, 2020 and ending October 29, 2020 the program “Parent Support” will be delivered from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm to a maximum of 6 participants who have pre-registered for this program. No drop-in participants will be allowed. Transportation and Childcare services will be provided as will a snack.

These two programs will operate within the following guidelines:

- Staff may use RYC vehicles for transporting participants and their children to and from RYC
- Only one person seated in a row of seats within a vehicle unless there are two people from the same family who may sit together in one row
- Vehicles will be cleaned and sanitized after the participants have been returned to their homes by cleaning and disinfecting common touch areas within the vehicles
- Disposable paper sheets shall be utilized in each child safety seat used
- Child safety seat common touch areas shall be cleaned and sanitized after use
- Staff and participants must wear masks while in the vehicle
- Staff and participants must wear masks when entering or exiting the building
- Participants will use side entrance to enter and exit the building
- Participants must wash hands prior to entering the meeting room
- Participants may remove masks within meeting room if two-metre distancing can be maintained
- Participants must wear masks when going to the bathroom
- Only one person allowed in the bathroom at one time

Young Parent Program (continued)

- Bathroom users should wipe common touch areas with sanitizing wipe after use
- Masks should be worn by staff while supervising children in the Childcare area of RYC
- Masks are not required for children under age 10
- Staff will minimize the frequency of direct physical contact with children and should encourage children to minimize physical contact with one another
- Staff and children should not share food, drinks, bottles, etc. Label any personal items with the child's name to discourage accidental sharing
- Any snacks or food served should be in individual portions served by a staff member
- Any utensil used should be individual disposable plastic
- Cleaning and disinfecting of any toys used by children and any common touch areas must be done after childcare is ended
- Wear disposable gloves when cleaning bloody or body fluids (runny nose, vomit, urine, etc)

TRANSPORTATION GUIDELINES – FALL 2020

The following guidelines are intended to reduce the risk of transmission of the COVID-19 virus while using Rainbow vehicles. It is recognized that there is a risk involved in providing transportation to participants to and from Rainbow programs and activities. However, it is believed that the benefits obtained by participants through engagement in these events outweigh whatever risks may be involved. These guidelines are intended to reduce the risks as much as possible.

- Only one person may be seated on a row of seats within a vehicle unless they are members of the same family
- Masks must be worn by all occupants of the vehicle except children under the age of 10
- Child Safety Seats must have a disposable paper barrier placed in them prior to placing a child in them
- Disposable paper barriers are for one return trip only and must be disposed of after trip
- Vehicles will be cleaned after each return trip by cleaning and disinfecting common touch areas within the vehicle as per the transportation guidance in the Re-Open Saskatchewan Plan. The common touch areas include the Child Safety Seat itself.
- Some of the Rainbow vehicles will be equipped with a plastic protective barrier between the driver and passengers
- Some of the Rainbow vehicles will have reusable mats placed on the seats which must be laundered after each use
- Hand sanitizer will be available in the vehicles for staff and clients

CHILDCARE GUIDELINES – FALL 2020

The following guidelines are intended to reduce the risk of transmission of the COVID-19 virus while providing Childcare Services. It is recognized that there is a risk involved in providing Childcare services to children of participants engaged in Rainbow programs and activities. However, it is believed that the benefits obtained by providing these Childcare services outweigh whatever risks may be involved. These guidelines are intended to reduce the risks as much as possible.

- Any transportation services provided as part of Childcare services must follow the Rainbow Transportation Guideline – Fall 2020.
- Any participants including children must use the 4th Ave. side door to enter and exit the building
- As per the Child Care Facilities Guidelines “Checking temperatures, detailed screening or requiring COVID-19 testing of children and staff are not required or recommended at this time”
- Any participants over the age of 10 must wash hands prior to entering the Childcare Area
- Any participants over the age of 10 must wear masks when entering and exiting the building
- Staff should wear masks within the Childcare area
- Masks are not required for children within the Childcare area
- Staff will minimize the frequency of direct physical contact with children and should encourage children to minimize physical contact with one another
- Staff and children should not share food, drinks, bottles, etc. Label any personal items with the child’s name to discourage accidental sharing
- Any snacks or food served should be in individual portions served by a staff member
- Any utensil used should be individual disposable plastic
- Cleaning and disinfecting of any toys used by children and any common touch areas must be done after childcare is ended
- Wear disposable gloves when cleaning bloody or body fluids (runny nose, vomit, urine, etc)

CLEANER GUIDELINES – FALL 2020

The following guidelines are intended to reduce the risk of transmission of the COVID-19 virus by the cleaning services provided by the in-staff Rainbow cleaner. It is not intended to be a full description of the cleaning services provided, but rather only the services that will be provided to reduce the risk of COVID-19. The cleaner will be working three days per week and will perform the following cleaning and sanitizing procedures each day:

- Thorough cleaning and disinfecting of four bathrooms
- Disinfecting of common touch areas on Upper level including interior of Hive
- Cleaning and disinfecting of front and side doors and handles including exterior
- Cleaning and disinfecting of side stairwell and classroom stairwell
- Disinfecting of common touch areas on Mezzanine level including interior of Rainbow Room

GENERAL GUIDELINES – FALL 2020

The following guidelines are intended to reduce the risk of transmission of the COVID-19 virus while providing programs and services and general operations within the Rainbow facility. It is recognized that there is a risk involved in providing programs and services. However, it is believed that the benefits obtained by providing these services outweigh whatever risks may be involved. These guidelines are intended to reduce the risks as much as possible.

- Staff should not report for work when they are sick
- Staff should go home if they become sick at work
- No one who is sick should enter the Rainbow facilities
- If staff have travelled out of country then mandatory 14 day self-isolation is required as per Public Health Orders
- If staff have travelled out of province they should stay away from work for at least 48 hours upon their return
- If staff have travelled out of city but within the province, no additional precautions are required
- Staff should follow the guidelines for Public and Private Gatherings contained within the Re-Open Saskatchewan Plan
- Masks must be worn by all persons over the age of ten within the Rainbow building except for staff and for program participants within their assigned program areas
- Two-metre distancing should be maintained whenever possible
- Hands should be washed prior to entering the building
- Staff must clean and sanitize any meeting rooms used after use
- Anyone using Rainbow bathroom facilities must wash hands thoroughly and should clean any common-touch areas with sanitizing wipes
- Anyone other than staff entering or exiting the building should use the 4th Ave side door
- Not open to the general public at this time
- No unscheduled drop-in visits by public or youth
- Clothing bank is open for participants who are attending Rainbow programs
- Masks must be worn by visitors to the clothing bank
- Only two people within the clothing bank area at one time
- Clothing bank visits to be arranged through program supervisors