

Being safe and responsible at work | Update 15 September 2020

From 11 May onwards, our practices at work have changed in order to protect everyone. Below are guidelines as set by the RIVM, complemented by Op Stoom's regulations.

When can children come to the day care center?

- A child is allowed to attend day care when having symptoms of a cold, such as a running nose, coughing, sneezing.
- When the child arrives at the day care with a cold, the parents will always be asked (although not at BSOs/afterschool day care): "In your opinion, is it responsible that your child attends day care today?" When parents answer in the affirmative, the child is allowed to enter.
- When the symptoms worsen throughout the day, the child has to be picked up.
- When a child is already at the day care center when it develops a cold, the child has to be picked up when the symptoms worsen throughout the day
- If you, as a parent, have to stay at home because of complaints related to the Corona virus and if you have to wait for the results of the Corona test at home, you are not allowed to bring or collect your child yourself.

When should children stay home?

- When the child has a fever of 38° Celsius or above, and/or experiences shortness of breath.
- When the child or someone else in its households has a cold and a fever of 38° Celsius or above, or just a fever of 38° Celsius or above and/or experiences shortness of breath.
- When someone in the child's household has been tested for the corona virus and is awaiting test results.
- When someone in the child's household has been tested for the corona virus and the test was positive.
- When we have more than one child in a group with symptoms of corona, we have to inform the GGD.

How long after children had to stay/go home, are they allowed to return?

- When a child has a cold *and* a fever, or just a fever and/or difficulty breathing, the child is only allowed to return after the absence of a fever and breathing difficulties for at least 24 hours. If the child still has a cold, the first paragraph applies again.
- When someone else in the child's household has a cold *and* a fever, or just a fever or difficulty breathing, the child is only allowed to return after this person has been free of symptoms for at least 24 hours, or has been tested negative.
- When someone else in the child's household has been tested positive on the corona virus, children have to wait until that person has been symptom free for 24 hours, and then stay home for 10 more days.

When are our employees allowed to work?

Working in childcare has been listed as one of the essential jobs. The RIVM has set the following guidelines for our staff:

- From 1 June onwards everyone in the Netherlands can be tested for corona when they experience the related symptoms. These (mild) symptoms include: coughing; having a cold; a stuffed or runny nose; sneezing; a sore throat; a fever; sudden loss of smell or taste.
- Until the results of the test are known, the employee stays at home.
- If the test comes back negative, the employee can return to work, unless the employee has been in close contact with a corona patient. In that case, the employee stays at home for the remaining days of the 10-day quarantine period. If the employee gets complaints again or other complaints that are consistent with corona, the employee must stay at home and make a new test appointment - or contact his / her doctor.
- When the test is positive, the employee has to stay at home and recover for at least 7 days. When the symptoms have been absent for 24 hours, the employee can get back to work.
- Employees that fall into one of the risk groups (according to the RIVM list¹), are not obligated to work in our groups. We assess the options with them to do alternative work for us, from home or (another place on) our location.

- Employees whose household members are at risk (according to the RIVM list), are not obligated to work in our groups. We assess the options with them to do alternative work for us, from home or (another place on) our location.
- Employees with hay fever are allowed to come to work.
- Employees who are pregnant, stop working in the groups from their last trimester onwards (week 28). We assess the options with them to do alternative work for us, from home or (another place on) our location.

Returning from a (Corona related) risk area.

- If you return from a country or an area with an orange or red travel advice due to the Corona virus, it is urgent to go into quarantine for 10 days when you return home. This also applies if the travel advice was changed to orange or red during your trip.
- Your child is allowed to come to daycare and after school care, unless they have Corona related complaints or someone in the household has a fever and / or shortness of breath.
- However, you are not allowed to bring or collect your child during your own 10 days of home quarantine.

1.5 meters of distance or not?

- The physical interaction between children is allowed to continue as usual. Children are allowed to romp, eat together at a table, et cetera. They don't have to keep a distance of 1.5 m.
- Children and employees don't have to keep a distance of 1.5 m.
- Adults at work do keep a distance of 1.5 m to each other.
- Our employees will also keep a distance of 1.5 m from you.
- We ask that parents also keep their distance from each other. We help you by indicating walking routes or squares on the floor.

No mask

The RIVM doesn't ask of childcare that we work with masks. Children play a small role in spreading the corona virus and because the adults keep the 1.5 m distance, we don't wear masks. We decided to apply one clear guideline: no masks. There is one exception: when our staff drives the children around in our vans. In that case the staff is allowed to wear a mask, but it is not mandatory.

Children with masks

It is possible that (older) children are attending the BSO (afterschool day care) with a mask. They can decide themselves to wear the mask or to take it off. We are not responsible for monitoring if they wear the mask if this is what the parent wants.

Gloves and protective clothing

The RIVM doesn't ask of childcare that we work with latex gloves. We don't wear protective clothing or smocks with "1.5 m distance" on them.

Drop-off and pick-up

We aim to making drop-offs and pick-ups as smooth as possible. We ask you to observe the following guidelines:

Keep your distance during drop-offs and pick-ups:

Only one parent/adult per household can be present when bringing or picking up the child.

- We advise that the same parent/adult brings and picks up the child every day, as much as possible.
- We want to limit the amount of adults in our buildings as much as possible, so that we can keep our 1.5 m distance.
- When you bring your child to us, we will ask you whether your child has any symptoms and we will observe your child's health.
- When entering the building, you disinfect your hands at the door or in the hallway.
- Babies can be transferred by laying them down in an agreed-upon place (box, baby garden), where an employee can pick them up.
- Toddlers will also be transferred at 1.5 m distance.
- Parents of toddlers and childcare will transfer their children at the door of the group, when possible. It is not forbidden to enter the group, but try to avoid it when it isn't necessary. When your child goes to the BSO (afterschool day care), you are not allowed to enter.

- It may take longer to bring your child away and to pick them up. Parents may have to wait outside for a bit longer when there are other parents as well, as we want to avoid any crowded spaces.
- It is possible to transfer your child live with 1.5 m distance. Of course it is also possible to call when necessary.
- When BSO children arrive, they announce themselves. At the same time, they will disinfect their hands with a hand sanitizer.

Going out with the children

We don't organize any external activities with the children. It is still allowed to go for a walk or play outside somewhere in the neighborhood.

Driving in our vans

BSO children are allowed to travel in vans. Children play only a small role in spreading the corona virus. However, we want to minimize any traveling with the children, so we will only use the vans to pick them up from school. The van allows for 8 children and 1 adult to travel together.

Managers on our locations

The manager, or a replacement, is allowed to enter the group, whilst observing 1.5 m distance from other adults. It is important that they are present and can give support and advise when necessary.

Treats

It happens regularly that toddlers and young children at the day care give out treats when it's their birthday. This is allowed again from 1 June onwards. Children at the BSO never give out treats when it's their birthday.

Clubs

All Clubs except for the Cooking Studio will continue again after 8 June.

Admission interviews and tours

From 1 July onwards, admission interviews and tours of our locations will be possible again. Parents are not allowed inside the groups, but they can watch from the doorpost or through a window. If new parents insist on looking in the group, the manager can decide to allow this outside of the regular opening times. This is not required.

Staff meetings

Necessary training sessions and consultations take place at Op Stoom, if the 1.5 meters distance can be held. The meetings and training courses are organized in small groups, with a maximum of 12 employees.

Parent meetings

No parent meetings will be organized until January.

Cleaners in our groups

Hygiene is more important than ever. Cleaners are allowed in our groups, at a 1.5 m distance from other adults. When they aren't there, we all do our bit to contribute to the required hygiene in the group.

Cleaning regulations

In order to protect you, your child and our employees as best as we can, it is important to observe the RIVM's cleaning guidelines. We ask you to follow the RIVM guidelines as well, including the extra precautions against spreading the virus (coughing and sneezing in the elbow, using paper towels, don't shake hands, keep 1.5 m distance).

Besides, we do the following:

- Upon arrival we wash our hands thoroughly.
- We keep an eye on the hygiene of the children's hands.
- We clean surfaces that get touched a lot multiple times a day.
- We clean toys that have been played with daily and remove toys from the group that are hard to clean.
- We ensure that there is adequate ventilation, and open extra windows and doors.
- Children will eat fruit from their own container.