**Next to Mom**

**Daycare Centre**

**Storms/Closures:**

It is very rare that we close and we realize that most parents must attend work and will be relying on the Centre to be open**.** As your chosen daycare Centre we honour your dedication to your career and to your child(ren), we also recognize the trust you bestowed on us with your child(ren) therefore we will always make an effort to be here for you.

The purpose of this storm/closure policy is to protect the Centre’s educators, children and families when roads, weather conditions, or other factors may endanger them. It is the aim of Next to Mom Day Care Centre to remain open to provide a service to our families; however there are times when that may not be possible.

**Some factors for closing the Centre include but are not limited to:**

* Sufficient number of employees to safely operate. (The daycare is required to meet provincially regulated child-to-staff ratios as stipulated by the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development).
* Weather forecasts, current weather and road conditions.
* Power/water outages.
* Public (Codiac) transit ceases to operate.
* Snowplows cease to operate
* Contagious Disease/ Illness Outbreak (see section 11 Health and Wellness of the Next to Mom Daycare Centre Policy Book)

The centre will be closing during a storm if Codiac Transit or snowplows are pulled off the roads. Please listen to radio notifications when there is a storm. If the buses or snowplows are pulled off the roads after the daycare opens, parents will be asked to come and pick up their child(ren) **within the hour**.

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If the buses are pulled off the roads before the daycare opens that day (before 7am) the Centre will automatically close and will reopen the next business day.

However the Centre will continue to monitor the situation throughout the day, if the weather improves and/or buses resume their schedule then:

1. before 1:00pm, the daycare may decide to open
2. after 1:00pm, the Centre will remain closed and will reopen the next business day.

The decision to open or close the Centre in that situation will also depend on certain factors as stated in section 5. Hours of Operation – *Some factors for closing the Centre*, regardless of whether the buses resume their schedule that day.

If there is a snow storm when you wake up in the morning please make sure to call the daycare before you take a chance on venturing out. A message will be placed on the Centre’s phone to advise parents of a closure. If difficulties are encountered with the phone lines, a message will be placed on the CBC Storm Centre website (). Please remember your safety and your child(ren)’s safety is our priority. **PLEASE STAY SAFE.**

The Centre may open and assess the situation throughout the day, however if you decide to keep your child home, please call the Centre as soon as possible to notify us.

It is possible that the Centre may close mid-day. If this should occur Educators at Next to Mom Daycare Centre will call families to notify them of the closure and ask that you have your child(ren) picked up **within the hour**.

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It is essential that the daycare have **up-to-date** records of each parent’s place of employment and all contact telephone numbers.

Please make sure you have a valid phone number for that day to ensure you can be contacted. In the event parents can not be reached those listed as emergency contacts will be contacted (Please see section 7 Arrivals and Departures of the Next to Mom Daycare Centre Policy Book).

On days when the Centre is open and public schools have been closed, children who are involved in the After-School program will be permitted to attend a full day program. A fee, which will include two snacks and a lunch, will be levied for this service. If the schools close during the day due to a snow storm, we **will** **not** provide transportation, it will be your responsibility to find other transportation arrangements back to the Centre to finish their day with us.

Parents will be charged their regular fees, for the closure regardless of whether the daycare was closed for a full day or not.

***Please remember your safety, your child(ren)’s safety and our educators safety is always our priority!***