



COVID-19 Protocol 13

Sensory Room

Many students regularly benefit from access to personalized or shared sensory equipment and breaks outside of the classroom. Finding ways to safely access equipment and break times will be important to maintaining well-being.

1. Sensory Rooms

- Soft chairs (e.g., bean bag chairs, yogibos...) or climbing mats must be removed from all sensory/movement rooms that are accessed by more than one student as these soft furniture pieces cannot be sufficiently cleaned.
- Sensory rooms that are designated for only one student or one cohort (e.g., sensory room for a DE or ASD class) can be accessed, following the procedures below.
- Individualized high touch equipment must be stored in a labelled bag to ensure only the one student has access.
- Shared high touch equipment (e.g., wire puzzles) must be removed from the room and assigned to an individual student.
- Disinfectant must be provided in the room to wipe down switches for low touch equipment after each use of the room.
- In Developmental Centers where it is necessary for students from different classes to access sensory rooms, a schedule must be developed with designated windows of time for each class and cleaning protocol for all touch surfaces between classes.

2. Individualized equipment

Where students have personalized sensory equipment, (e.g., fidgets, putty, puzzles...) these should be stored within the classroom and labeled to ensure they are not used by multiple students. Build in classroom-based staggered/levelled breaks and support student in determining when they need to access the equipment and how they can do so safely.

For support with individual equipment:

- LSTs, please continue to order fidgets, puzzles, weighted pencils as recommended by qualified practitioners.
- To request ordering of higher priced high-touch items usually accessed by more than one student (e.g., wire puzzles, weighted balls, sensory walls) contact Mary Kay Horton.

3. Shared equipment

Low/ no touch equipment (e.g., bubble tubes, projectors, music, lights) may be used in sensory rooms accessed by a single student or students from a single community or cohort. Staff accompanying the student must wipe down switches or touch points and equipment at each exit and prior to permitting usage. Creatively build positive exit sanitation procedures into your routine.

Initial Release: August 31, 2020

Revision Date: NA

Protocol 13 Sensory Rooms

Please refer to online version for most current, protocol will be updated as required.

4. **Alternate Strategies**

Staggered/levelled breaks for movement within a classroom space or outside are good for all students and essential for some. Plan strategically when setting up desks to provide safe distances in accessing a movement space within the classroom, where possible. Opportunities for movement breaks outside of the classroom must be intentionally scheduled to minimize traffic in hallways and maintain physical distancing protocols.

Revision Date:	Comments

Initial Release: August 31, 2020

Revision Date: NA

Protocol 13 Sensory Rooms

Please refer to online version for most current, protocol will be updated as required.