



CHILD CARE FACILITIES

Child Care Facilities

This applies to
Licensed Child Care
Facilities



GENERAL INFORMATION

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention emphasizes 15 mitigation strategies in their [QUICK GUIDE: HELP PROTECT YOUR CHILD CARE CENTER FROM COVID-19](#) to decrease exposure of children and teachers.

The Municipality is still requiring certain mitigation strategies to protect the health and safety of children, staff, and families. **Required items are in bold and italics.** Recommended implementation guidance is in regular text.

STAFFING/OPERATIONS

- ***Cloth face coverings that fully cover the nose and mouth must be worn by all individuals six years of age and older when indoors in public and/or communal spaces in addition to when outside at a gathering or when not at a gathering, but cannot maintain 6 foot distancing*** and are recommended for children ages 2-5, with supervision.
 - ***Children 6 years of age and older are required to wear masks.***
 - ***Children, staff, caregivers, and parents in child care settings are required to wear masks.***
 - Children under two should not wear masks.
 - Children who are napping should not wear masks.
 - Remind staff and children not to touch their face.
 - Provide information to all staff on the proper use, removal, and washing of cloth coverings. The CDC has information regarding cloth face coverings which may be useful ([Click here to view](#)).
- ***Facility staff must screen every staff and child daily upon arrival and conduct a temperature check on site to determine whether individuals may attend. Follow CDC guidance*** ([Click here to view](#): Recognize Signs and Symptoms of COVID-19; Examples of Screening Methods).
- ***Use intentional cleaning and disinfection practices if/when staff move between groups. Everyone must wash hands following CDC guidance before entering a group.***
- **HIGHLY RECOMMENDED**
 - Cohort in static groups to avoid mixing of children. A facility may oversee multiple groups, as long as the groups are kept apart at all times and no mixing between groups occurs. Each group should consider separate eating areas, recreation space, and restroom facilities when possible. If not possible, complete a sanitization process between each group using a shared space.
 - Encourage staff and parents to adopt a regular asymptomatic testing plan (where staff and/or staff and parents test for COVID-19 on a regular basis) to catch exposure among the population before cases spread.

COVID-19 MITIGATION PLAN

All facilities must write, share with parents, train staff on, follow, and maintain hard copies at site of COVID-19 mitigation plans. If you have multiple licensed sites, hard copies are required at each location.

Plans **must** include the following areas written in **bold and italics**. Recommended topic areas are in regular text.

GENERAL

- **Communication measures:**
 - Signage at the door.
 - **Expectations of:**
 - **Staff and families reporting known exposures to COVID-19 positive individuals to facility.**
 - **Facility reporting to families known exposures to COVID-19 positive individuals, while respecting privacy of individual.**
- Limits to visitors, deliveries, and/or others not registered in program.
- Meal prep, service, and clean-up procedures.

OPERATIONS

- **Sign-In and Sign-Out procedures.**
- **Screening protocol for staff and children:**
 - **Timeline/indicators to return if screened out.**
 - **Make sure to include your requirements around travel.**
- **Handwashing / Hand Sanitizing processes, with oversight procedures for staff, families, and children throughout the day.**
- Daily Schedule & Physical Distancing procedures in each time block of the day, at a minimum including:
 - Activities (inside/outside & high energy/low energy).
 - Free and rest times.
 - Meal times.
 - Safety on walking field trips.
- **Mitigation strategies intentionally used to clean and disinfect if/when staff move between groups.**
- Cleaning/Sanitizing/Disinfecting procedures, including ventilation safety:
 - Daily and weekly processes.
 - Extra mitigation strategies for shared spaces, including program areas, eating spaces, restrooms, hand-washing stations.
- **Face covering expectations** (who and in what conditions must wear cloth masks).
Follow the current masking mandates.

OCCURRENCE OF COVID-19 IN THE WORKPLACE

- **Plan for staff and children likely to be contagious with COVID-19 or who have been a close contact to a positive case ([click to view here](#)).**
 - **Plan for isolation requirements according to CDC guidelines and return to program for staff and children after testing positive.**
 - **Plan for quarantine requirements for staff and children who have been a close contact to a positive case. Note that CDC guidelines may not require quarantine depending on the vaccination status or previous infection history of the close contact.**
 - **Work with Public Health Nurses as requested if there was a known exposure.**
- Closure plans and on what timeframe (as anticipated, though may end up on a case-by-case basis).
- CDC protocols, for *Cleaning and Disinfecting* ([click to view here](#)), last updated 4/5/2021.

OTHER RECOMMENDED SAFETY MEASURES

- Review and apply updated guidance for children with special needs and disabilities ([click to view here](#)).
- Educate staff on the effects of off hours activities and the impact those activities can have on the workplace.
- Educate staff, families, and children about signs and symptoms of COVID-19 ([click to view here](#)) as well as behaviors that encourage (1) risk reduction behaviors and (2) reducing the stigma surrounding this disease ([click to view here](#)).
- Assign a staff member the responsibility of continually checking CDC, state, and municipal websites for the most up-to-date guidance and mandates.