

# INFORMATION FOR FAMILIES ON HEALTH AND SAFETY MEASURES CHILD CARE PROGRAMS MAY TAKE DURING COVID-19

*Last updated 11/10/2020*

The COVID-19 (Coronavirus) crisis may make you wonder if it is safe to send your child to a child care program. We offer the following information on health and safety measures child care programs may take when enhanced health and safety measures continue to be important. This information applies to both family child care homes and child care center settings, unless otherwise specified. You may use the information and considerations below as a resource to inform your child care program decision making.

## Check-In and Pick-Up

- Families are greeted at the door or curb. Parents and other family members are discouraged from entering the child care program. Programs rely on parents to take their child(ren)'s temperature before arrival or a trained staff member takes the temperature of child(ren) prior to parents leaving the site. Parents also are asked questions like:
  - Do you live with anyone or have you had close contact with anyone who has been diagnosed with COVID-19 within the past 14 days?
  - Do you or anyone in your household have a fever, cough and/or shortness of breath?
  - Do you or your child(ren) have any other signs of communicable illness such as a cold or flu?
- Children and staff are required to wash their hands immediately upon entering the building and frequently throughout the day.
- Upon your arrival to pick up your child, a staff member brings your child out to you. Doing so limits direct contact and helps maintain social distancing.
- The same designated person drops off and picks up children every day. Older people, such as those 65+ years of age or adults with serious underlying conditions should not pick up children.

## Healthy Environment

- Program staff separate children into smaller groups that fall within state or local guidelines. These groups are stable in that the same group of children are with the same provider each day.
- In child care centers, all classrooms remain separated to reduce the number of children in one area and to reduce the possibility of viral transmission.
- Cribs, playpens, cots and napping mats are spaced out as much as possible (ideally 6 feet apart) and children are placed head to toe for naps.
- Equipment used in the program is not shared and is cleaned between uses.
- Staff disinfect high-touch surfaces, such as door handles, light switches, faucets, toilets seats and handles routinely.
- Toys that cannot be washed are not used.
- Children are not allowed to bring toys from home.
- Program staff may perform an enhanced deep cleaning every night in all areas, on all touched surfaces.
- Staff have access to hand sanitizers (at least 60% alcohol) and disposable gloves and use them as needed.
- Staff wash their hands and children's hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds often,

particularly upon arrival, before and after eating, after diapering or using the toilet, after playing outdoors and following any contact with bodily fluid.

- Staff and children age two or older wear face coverings while indoors.
- No program tours are given until further notice to reduce the number of visitors in the building.

### Meal Preparation and Service

- All surfaces are disinfected before meal preparation and feedings using EPA-registered disinfectant products.
- All staff wash hands before and after meal preparation and feeding.
- Each child's meal is plated and served by staff.
- In child care centers, meals and snacks are served in the classroom and communal cafeterias are closed.
- Children do not share eating utensils.

### Child Health

- Staff receive education on COVID-19 symptoms as well as preventive measures to ward off the spread of COVID-19.
- Children who start to experience symptoms of respiratory illness, including a fever of 100.4°F or above and symptoms of other infectious illnesses while at child care are isolated from other children until they can be picked up.
- Children at higher risk of severe illness due to

underlying medical conditions are kept home if there is COVID-19 outbreak in the community.

- All program field trips are suspended.

### Staff Health

- Staff receive additional training on infection control and cleaning and disinfection.
- Staff do not share their phone, devices with one another or children.
- Staff check their temperature at the beginning of each shift and notify their supervisor if 100.4°F or above as well as self-monitor for signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and notify their supervisor if any develop (cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing and other respiratory symptoms like fever, chills, shaking with chills, muscle pain, headache, sore throat or new loss of taste or smell).
- Staff wash their hands immediately upon entering the program and immediately prior to leaving.
- Staff are not allowed to work if they are feeling ill, or experiencing respiratory symptoms or if someone in their household has COVID-19 symptoms or screens positive for COVID-19.

### Communication

- Families supply the child care program with up-to-date emergency contact information for their child(ren).
- Child care program staff use multiple methods to communicate updates with parents. Methods may include email, website, telephone or social media.

It is important for you and your child care provider to communicate often and be transparent with one another. Voice concerns or questions you have with your provider as soon as possible. If you need to find a different child care program, reach out to your local Child Care Resource and Referral Agency.

To find the Resource and Referral Agency nearest you, go to <https://www.childcareaware.org/resources/ccrr-search-form/>, and enter your zip code, and click "Search."

To find additional information on how to choose child care, go to <https://www.childcareaware.org/families/>

For other information on COVID-19 information and resources offered by your state, go to <https://www.childcareaware.org/resources/map/> and select your state.

This document is based, in part, off of information supplied by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). Refer to the Centers for Disease Control for additional, regularly updated guidance for child care programs that remain open during the COVID-19 pandemic: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/guidance-for-childcare.html#clean>