

The Centers for Disease Control has issued significant guidance about how best to deal with COVID-19 in the childcare setting. The most important thing Childcare Facilities can do to help decrease the spread of COVID-19 is to adhere to social distancing and disinfecting guidelines. Childcare service facilities should take every reasonable measure to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Social Distancing

- Childcare should be carried out in stable groups, preferably with ten (10) or fewer. “Stable” means that the same ten (10) or fewer children are in the same group each day.
- Children should not change from one group to another.
- If more than one group of children is cared for at one facility, each group should be in a separate room. Groups should not mix with each other.
- Childcare providers should remain solely with one group of children.
- Employees should supervise young children with handwashing and use of alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Consider staggering arrival and drop off times and/or have childcare providers come outside the facility to pick up the children as they arrive.
- Communicate the importance of keeping children home when they are sick.
- Communicate to staff the importance of being vigilant for symptoms and staying in touch with facility management if or when they start to feel sick.
- Establish procedures to ensure children and staff who come to the childcare center sick or become sick while at the facility are sent home as soon as possible.
- Keep sick children and staff separate from well children and staff until they can be sent home.
- Sick staff members should not return to work until they have met the criteria to discontinue home isolation.

Cleanliness

- Pre-screen employees and children before entrance into the facility.
- Employees should wash hands often with soap and water. If soap and water are not readily available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.
- Keep restrooms stocked with soap and/or hand sanitizer.
- Routinely clean and disinfect restrooms daily or more if possible. You may want to increase cleaning of high-touched surfaces such as faucets, toilets, doorknobs, light switches, toys and bedding.
- Provide wipes, sanitizer, and cleaning products throughout workplaces to allow for frequent sanitation of frequently touched surfaces.