

# 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,

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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.

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- 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.