

Recommendations for Childcare Facilities Operating During COVID-19 Emergency

Background

COVID-19 coronavirus is spreading globally and in Philadelphia. Most COVID-19 cases worldwide have been in adults. The children who do get sick with COVID-19 tend to have milder symptoms and fewer complications. A limited number of childcare facilities in Philadelphia will remain open to serve children of the city's emergency and essential staff. To limit coronavirus transmission in childcare facilities during this period of time, the Philadelphia Department of Public Health is issuing the following guidelines:

Recommendations:

- **Intensify cleaning and disinfection efforts**
 - Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces at least daily. This includes tables, chairs, doorknobs, light switches, remote controls, countertops, handles, desks, phones, keyboards, toilets, faucets, strollers and sinks.
 - Provide disposable wipes so that commonly used surfaces and toys can be wiped down before and after each use.
 - Remove all plush toys from the classroom.
 - Facilities should use [cleaning products](#) that are EPA-approved for use against COVID-19.
- **Staff and children should be instructed in and practice appropriate hand hygiene**
 - All staff and children should wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds upon entry to the school, before and after eating, before and after diapering, and after coughing, sneezing, or blowing their nose.
 - If soap and water are not available and hands are not visibly dirty, an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol can be used.
- **Implement strategies to promote social distancing**
 - Limit each classroom to no more than ten individuals (staff and children).
 - Increase the space between cribs and rest mats to maximize the space between children. The cribs and rest mats should be 6 feet apart if space permits. If closer than 6 feet, have children nap in head-to-feet positioning.
 - Avoid activities where children from different classes interact. For example, stagger use of playgrounds/indoor play spaces, do not combine classes for enrichment activities.
 - Cancel all fieldtrips and excursions including the use of public playgrounds.

Visit www.phila.gov/COVID for more information • Text COVIDPHL to 888-777 to receive updates to your phone
Call (800) 722-7112 to speak to a health care professional on the Greater Philadelphia Coronavirus Helpline

- **Exclude children and staff who are sick or have a known COVID-19 exposure**
 - All childcare facilities should screen staff and children for the following upon entrance to the facility:
 - Fever: Use a single-use clinical thermometer (i.e., TempaDOT™) or no-contact forehead scan for measuring temperature. If temperature >99.5 degrees F, the individual should not be permitted into the facility.
 - Symptoms: Ask all individuals (staff, parent, guardian) if they or their child have had cough or shortness of breath. If the answer is yes to either question, do not allow the individual to enter the facility.
 - Travel: Ask all individuals (staff, parent, guardian) if they or their child has traveled internationally in the past 14 days. If the answer is yes, do not allow the individual to enter the facility.
 - Exposure: Ask all individuals (staff, parent, or guardian) if they or their child has been exposed to a confirmed COVID-19 case in the past 14 days. If the answer is yes, do not allow the individual to enter the facility.
 - Children or staff who develop fever (>99.5 degrees F), cough, or shortness of breath while at the facility should be separated from the rest of the children and staff until they can leave the facility.
- **PDPH recommends against allowing children under the age of 1 year and children or staff with chronic medical conditions (i.e. asthma) to receive care or work at the facility.**
- **Ensure facility has updated contact information for all staff and families and the ability to rapidly communicate information.**

If you believe there was a COVID-19 case at your childcare center, call the Philadelphia Department of Public Health at 215-685-6741 for further instructions. The Department will consult with you on management issues for your facility.