



COVID-19 and Child Care Providers and Facilities

Requested Action:

- **Exclude children, staff, parents and guardians from sites if they have been in contact with someone with a confirmed case of COVID-19 in the last 14 days, are showing symptoms of COVID-19 (fever, cough, shortness of breath), or are at high risk due to underlying health conditions.**
- Restrict individuals from providing child care and visiting child care facilities who are at increased risk of complications from COVID-19 including:
 - Persons who are older (60 years old or older)
 - Persons who have underlying health conditions (heart disease, lung disease, diabetes)
 - Persons who are pregnant
 - Persons with compromised immune systems or respiratory conditions like severe asthma
- Take the temperature and check for symptoms of each staff and child upon entry each day and ask if medications were used to lower the child's temperature and if there are any household members with COVID-19.
 - If forehead or disposable thermometers are not available have caregiver sign a form reporting their child's temperature taken at home and any symptoms

Social Distancing

Reduce group sizes to no larger than 10 people total, including children and adults, limit rooms to 10 people total

- Keep groups together throughout the day, do not combine groups
- Maintain the same groups from day to day, will reduce potential exposures and may prevent an entire program from shutting down if exposure does occur.
- Maintain at least three to six feet between children
- Minimizing time children are in close contact with each other
- Eliminate large group activities
- Increase the distance between children during table work.
- Plan activities that do not require close physical contact between multiple children.
- Limit item sharing, and if items are being shared, remind children not to touch their faces and wash their hands after using these items.
- Limit use of water or sensory tables and wash hands immediately after any use of these tools.
- Minimize time standing in lines.
- Incorporate additional outside time and open windows frequently.
- Adjust the HVAC system to allow for more fresh air to enter the program space.
- Avoid gathering in larger groups for any reason. Outside time and lunch should be taken with group (no large gatherings or combining groups.)

Outside play

- Stagger outside play
- Maintain 6 feet of space between groups
- Wash hands immediately after outdoor play time.

Meals and snack time

- Provide meals and snacks in the classroom if possible, to avoid congregating in large groups.
- If meals are provided in a lunch room:
 - Stagger meal times,



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- Arrange tables to ensure that there is at least six feet of space between groups in the lunchroom
- Clean tables between lunch shifts.
- Eliminate family style meals or have employees (not children) handle utensils and serve food to reduce spread of germs.

Drop-off and pick-up

- Do not combine groups in the morning or afternoon.
- Alternate drop off and pick up times for each group to avoid large congregations of children.
- Wash hands or use hand sanitizer before and after signing children in and out.
- Do not share pens. Parents should use their own pen when signing in.
- Electronic check-in, provide alcohol wipes and frequently clean the screens or keyboards.

Hygiene Practices

- Require handwashing upon arriving
- Practice frequent hand washing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds
- If soap and water are not readily available, using an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.
- Advise children, families, and staff to avoid touching their eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands
- Cover coughs or sneezes with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash and clean hands with soap and water or hand sanitizer (if soap and water are not readily available).

Exclude Ill Individuals

- Exclude staff or children with fever (100.4 F or higher), cough, or shortness of breath from child care facilities and tell them to stay away from others.
- Exclude children with household members who have been tested and are positive for COVID-19 from the child care facility.

Cleaning and disinfecting procedures

- Minimize the potential for the spread of germs by temporarily removing toys from the facility. If that is not possible remove toys that are not easily cleanable (such as stuffed animals and pillows) and rotate the toys that are out at any one time so that they can be adequately cleaned and sanitized.
- Increase the frequency you clean toys, equipment, and surfaces, especially doorknobs, check-in counters, and restrooms.
- Use alcohol wipes to clean keyboards and electronics and wash hands after use.

Background:

The virus causing coronavirus disease-2019 (COVID-19), emerged in December 2019 and has since spread around the world causing a global pandemic. Eighty percent of cases are mild, but severe disease and deaths are more common in the elderly (older than 60 years) and in those with underlying health conditions. As of March 19th, there are 1376 positive confirmed cases and 74 deaths in Washington State with 24 counties reporting cases. Thurston county has 8 positive confirmed cases and no deaths.

Resources:

DOH Child care: <https://www.doh.wa.gov/Emergencies/NovelCoronavirusOutbreak2020/ChildCare>
DOH: K-12 School Nurse and Administrator Resources & Recommendations
<https://www.doh.wa.gov/Emergencies/Coronavirus/Schools>
DOH: 2019 Novel Coronavirus Outbreak (COVID-19)
<https://www.doh.wa.gov/Emergencies/Coronavirus>

PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY

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Diana Yu, MD, MSPH, Acting Health Officer



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DOH: Classroom Cleaning - Tips for Teachers

<https://www.doh.wa.gov/CommunityandEnvironment/Schools/EnvironmentalHealth/ClassroomCleaning>

DOH: Handwashing to Prevent Illness at School

<https://www.doh.wa.gov/CommunityandEnvironment/Schools/EnvironmentalHealth/handwashing>

DOH: Cleaning and Disinfection for Asthma Safe Schools

<https://www.doh.wa.gov/Portals/1/Documents/4400/SchoolWorkshop-CleaningDisinfectionAsthma.pdf>

CDC: Interim guidance for Schools and Child Care https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/guidance-for-schools.html?CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Fspecific-groups%2Fguidance-for-schools.html

Just For Kids: A Comic Exploring the New Coronavirus

<https://www.npr.org/sections/goatsandsoda/2020/02/28/809580453/just-for-kids-a-comic-exploring-the-new-coronavirus>

King County Department of Health Child Care Recommendations

<https://www.kingcounty.gov/depts/health/communicable-diseases/disease-control/novel-coronavirus/childcare.aspx>

Recommend or Order Closure of Child Care Facilities (PDF)

<https://www.doh.wa.gov/Portals/1/Documents/1600/coronavirus/3-PolicyConsiderationsLHJsSchoolsChildCareHighEd.pdf>

Thank you for all you do to care for our community.