



County of Sacramento

Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Reopening Guidelines for Child Care Providers August 27, 2020

Social Distancing

Group child care should:

- Be in stable groups of 14 or fewer children ("stable" means that the same 14 or fewer children are in the same group each day). Children should not change from one group to another. The smaller the group, the better, but up to 14 is acceptable.
- If more than one group of children is cared for at one facility, each group should be in a separate room, if possible. Groups should not mix with each other. For example: meals, playground time, and toileting activities should be separate for each group.
- Child care provider(s) should also remain solely with one group of children (providers should not move from group to group or room to room).
- Consider creating a separate cohort for children of healthcare workers and other first responders.
- Special events such as holiday events and performances should be canceled or postponed.
- Consider the following modifications to daily activities:
 - Keep groups of children in separate classrooms
 - Stagger playground times and continue to keep cohorts separate for group activities such as art, music and exercise.
 - Ensure that naptime mats or cribs are spaced at least 6 feet apart
- If possible, administrative staff should continue to telework from their homes.

Infection Prevention

There are many preventative actions you and your staff can take to prevent the spread of viruses and bacteria that cause illness. Here are some examples:

- Implement hand hygiene policies and procedures – see additional guidance on this in the “Hand Hygiene” section below
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces
- Cover cough and sneezes using a tissue or your elbow and wash hands immediately
- Cover your nose and mouth with a cloth face covering when you go out in public. Please note: face coverings should NOT be used on babies and children under age 2.
- Require sick children and staff to stay at home
- Have a protocol in place for allowing staff to return to work. Guidelines for this policy can be found on the [CDC website](#).
- Have a plan in place if a child or staff member becomes sick at your facility
 - Create an isolation room or area – additional guidance can be found [here](#).
 - Prepare to disinfect your facility according to [CDC guidance](#).
 - Clean and disinfect the isolation room/area after the sick child has gone home
 - Additional guidance for cleaning and disinfection for confirmed cases of COVID-19 in children or staff can be found [here](#).
- Any staff members that are in high risk groups (age 65 or older or with underlying health conditions) should be encouraged to talk to their healthcare provider to determine their level of risk and if they should stay home.

Hand Hygiene

- Hand hygiene should be done at the following times for all children, staff and volunteers:
 - Arrival to the facility and after breaks
 - Before and after food or drink preparation
 - Before and after eating, or feeding children
 - Before and after medication or medical ointment administration
 - After using the toilet, helping a child use the bathroom and changing diapers
 - After coming in contact with any bodily fluid
 - After handling animals or cleaning animal waste
 - After playing outdoors
 - After handling garbage
- Hands should be washed with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not readily available, alcohol-based hand sanitizer with minimum 60% alcohol may be used.
- Children should always be supervised when using hand sanitizer
- Staff should assist children with handwashing – including infants.
- Place posters describing steps for handwashing near sinks. Posters that are developmentally appropriate can be found on the [CDC website](#) in multiple languages.

Face Coverings

- Face coverings should be worn by staff and students (particularly older students) as feasible, and are **most** essential in times when physical distancing is difficult. Individuals should be frequently reminded not to touch the face covering and to wash their hands frequently. Information should be provided to staff, students, and students' families on the proper use, removal, and washing of cloth face coverings
- Children should not wear face coverings while napping for risk of suffocation or strangulation
- Face coverings may be challenging for students (especially younger students) to wear in all-day settings such as school. Do not force children to wear face coverings; instead, provide education to make using the face coverings fun and encourage their usage.
- If the face covering is creating discomfort or is resulting in the child touching their face frequently, reconsider if a face covering is appropriate for that child.

Drop-off and Pick-up

- Set up hand hygiene stations at the entrance and have children clean their hands before they enter the facility.
 - If a sink with soap and water is not available, hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol should be provided next to sign in sheets.
 - Hand sanitizer should be kept out of children's reach and its use should be supervised.
 - If possible, place sign-in tables outside and provide wipes for sanitizing pens between each use.
- Stagger drop-off and pick-up times as much as possible to limit direct contact with parents. Consider the following additional guidelines:
 - Have child care providers greet children outside when they arrive
 - Have a designated parent volunteer or child care provider to walk all children to their classrooms in the morning and back to their cars in the afternoon
 - Transport infants in their car seats. Car seats should be stored out of reach of other children.
- Recommend that the same parent (or other designated person) drop off and pick up the child every day. Older adults such as grandparents or individuals with underlying medical conditions should not pick up children due to their risk for more severe illness.

Screening Children

- If possible, children should be screened for fever of 100.4°F (38.0°C) or above as well as other signs of illness upon arrival. Children showing any signs of illness should not be admitted to the facility.

- Encourage parents to monitor children at home for signs of illness and keep them home when they are sick.
- In order to protect staff during screening consider implementing social distancing, barrier controls or using personal protective equipment (PPE). Detailed guidance on implementing these measures can be found on the [CDC website](#).

Cleaning and Disinfecting

- Develop a schedule for cleaning and disinfecting. An example schedule can be found on the [Caring for Our Children \(CFOC\) website](#).
- Surfaces and objects that are frequently touched such as toys and games should be routinely cleaned, sanitized and disinfected. Other objects/surfaces that will need to be cleaned and sanitized routinely include: doorknobs, light switches, sink handles, countertops, nap mats, toilet training potties, desks, chairs, cubbies and playground equipment.
- Use sanitizers and disinfectants appropriate for child care settings – guidance for selecting the appropriate materials can be found [here](#).
- Use all cleaning products according to the directions on the label and follow the manufacturer’s instructions for concentration, application and contact time. A list of EPA approved products for use against SARS-CoV-2 can be found [here](#).
- If available, EPA-registered disposable wipes should be provided to staff members to wipe down commonly used surfaces such as keyboards, desks and remote controls.
- Keep all cleaning materials secure and out of reach of children
- Staff should ensure that there is adequate ventilation when using cleaning products and they should not be used near children.
- Specific guidance for cleaning and disinfecting toys and bedding can be found [here](#).

Staffing Plan

There is a possibility that your facility may experience increased absenteeism among staff due to illness or inability to work related to medical risk factors for COVID-19. It is important to develop plans to ensure adequate staffing in the event of increased staff absences.

- The California Department of Social Services has issued guidance for child care facilities, including information on staffing requirements. You can view the guidance [here](#)

Additional Resources and Information

- CA Department of Social Services: [COVID-19 FAQ for Child Care Facilities](#)
- CA Department of Education: [Guidance for Early Learning and Care Programs](#)
- Centers for Disease Control: [Interim Guidance for K-12 schools and Child Care Programs](#)