

In the community Childcare

COVID-19 Guidance

According to the CDC, **children do not seem to be at higher risk for getting COVID-19. People at an increased risk for severe illness from COVID-19 include older adults and people who have chronic medical conditions like heart disease, diabetes and lung diseases.** There is currently no vaccine to protect against COVID-19. The best way to prevent COVID-19 infection is to limit exposure. **Childcare providers can employ everyday practices that will help keep all people healthy.**

The symptoms of COVID-19 include:

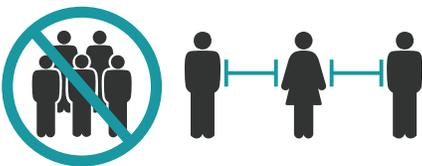
Fever



Cough



Shortness of Breath



Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces multiple times a day.

- Frequently touched surfaces (e.g., doorknobs, light switches, countertops) should be cleaned with common cleaning agents that are sufficient to kill this virus. Cleaning agents known to kill the virus can be found at www.americanchemistry.com/Novel-Coronavirus-Fighting-Products-List.pdf. Follow the manufacturer's recommendations regarding contact times.

Monitor and encourage healthy behaviors.

- Staying home when sick.
- Handwashing.
- Respiratory etiquette (covering cough).

Ensure hand hygiene supplies are readily available.

Implement social distancing measures.

- Reduce the frequency of large gatherings and limit the number of attendees.
- Alter schedules to reduce mixing (e.g. stagger recess, entry and dismissal times).
- Limit inter-school interactions.

Establish procedures to ensure students and staff who become sick at childcare or arrive at childcare sick are sent home as soon as possible.

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If an individual has traveled to an area with ongoing COVID-19 transmission or has been in contact with someone who has COVID-19, and develops a fever, shortness of breath and a cough, please have them contact their medical provider for instructions.

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Consider regular health checks (e.g., temperature and respiratory symptom screening) of students, staff and visitors.

Childcares should consider screening students or staff to identify ill individuals. If a childcare facility thinks that an individual may be ill, the ill individual should be sent home and instructed to contact their medical provider. The majority of respiratory illnesses are not COVID-19.



Use short-term dismissals for school and extracurricular activities as needed for cleaning and contact tracing at the direction of the Health Department.

Monitor and plan for absenteeism.

In addition to COVID-19 being an immediately reportable disease, clusters/outbreaks of infection are immediately reportable to the Health Department. If you notice two or more cases of similar illness, linked in person, place or time, alert local health officials.

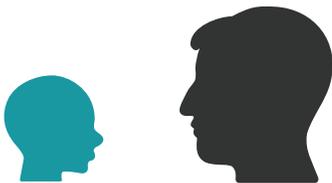


Create communications plans for use with the childcare community.

- Include strategies for sharing information with staff, students, and their families.
- Share resources with the childcare community to help families understand when to keep children home. Guidance from the American Academy of Pediatrics can be helpful: <https://www.healthychildren.org/English/family-life/work-play/Pages/When-to-Keep-Your-Child-Home-from-Child-Care.aspx>.
- Include information about steps being taken by your childcare facility to prepare, and how additional information will be shared.

Make yourself available to listen and talk.

Remember children react to both what you say and how you say it. Give children information that is truthful and appropriate for the age and developmental level of the child.



Review CDC's guidance for businesses and employers.

Review CDC guidance to identify strategies the childcare can use, given its role as an employer at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/guidance-business-response.html>.

How to prevent the spread of:

CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 (COVID-19)

INFECTION PREVENTION STEPS

- ✓ **Wash your hands often** with soap + water.
- ✓ **Avoid touching** your **eyes, nose + mouth** with unwashed hands.
- ✓ **Cover** your **cough or sneeze** with a tissue, then **throw the tissue** in the trash.
- ✓ **Avoid close contact** with people **who are sick**.
- ✓ **Get a flu shot!**
- ✓ **Clean + disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces** such as counters, door knobs, desks, keyboards, tablets and phones.

Keeping hands clean is one of the most important things we can do to stop the spread of respiratory illnesses like flu and COVID-19.



1

USE SOAP



2

PALM TO PALM



3

BACK OF HANDS



4

FINGERS INTERLACED



5

BASE OF THUMBS



6

FINGERNAILS



7

WRISTS



8

RINSE HANDS



9

DRY HANDS

PROPER HANDWASHING TIPS

- Wash hands thoroughly with soap + warm water.
- Wash for 20-30 seconds or sing "Happy Birthday" two times through.
- Soap and warm water are the best way to clean your hands, but if they aren't available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer, that contains at least 60% alcohol.

HOW TO USE HAND SANITIZERS

- Apply the sanitizer to the **palm of one hand** (follow label directions on how much to use).
- Rub hands together.
- Rub the sanitizer over **all the surfaces of your hands + fingers** until your hands are dry.

For more information: dph.georgia.gov/novelcoronavirus
cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html