

While physical distancing among young children and staff who care for them is challenging, there are some actions that can limit the number of contacts between children and staff.

Child care facilities that closed during the Stay-Home Order that began on March 25, 2020 and are planning to reopen should develop operational plans to reduce the risk of COVID-19 for employees and children in their care. Child care facilities currently open should review their operational plans.

Child care should use the following guidance as they reopen or continue to operate. Plans do not need to be submitted for review or approval. However, plans must be in compliance with existing licensing requirements and available upon request. Daycare providers should provide information about their plans to families they serve.

CHILD CARE SHOULD USE THE FOLLOWING PROTOCOLS AS THEY OFFER ACTIVITIES.

Review the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) "Guidance for Schools and Child Care Programs" including information on:

- Physical distancing
- Hand hygiene
- Food preparation and meals
- Washing, feeding and holding a child
- Diapering
- Cleaning and disinfecting

Develop plans that address staff and child safety and limit spread

- Consider accommodations for staff who may be at increased risk of severe COVID-19 illness, or who live with or care for a person at high risk
- Consider physical distancing strategies to reduce the number of different people with whom children and staff have contact. For example:
 - o Group children together and with the same child care providers each day
 - o Limit mixing of children from different classrooms on playground or other settings
- Consider creating a separate classroom or group for children of healthcare workers, first responders and other critical infrastructure workers
- Cancel or postpone events like festivals and special performances
- Consider staggering arrival and drop off times

CHILD CARE SHOULD USE THE FOLLOWING PROTOCOLS AS THEY OFFER ACTIVITIES.

Protect staff, children, and their families from the spread of COVID-19

- Make sure staff and families are aware that staff and children may not enter the facility if either they or a household member has suspected or lab-confirmed COVID-19 in the prior 14 days from illness onset
- Screen staff each day for illness in themselves and exclude if ill
- Have a daycare provider greet children outside at arrival and administer screening questions and fever check if possible, prior to entry into daycare facility
- Walk children to cars at departure
- Staff should wear masks or cloth face coverings unless they need to be removed to address children's fears

Identify how daycare will provide sanitation and personal hygiene for staff and children

- Make sure adequate supplies to support hand hygiene and routine cleaning of objects and surfaces
- Make sure hand hygiene stations are readily available for staff and children and used frequently throughout the day, especially before eating
- Have children and staff wash their hands upon arrival and at departure
- Frequently clean touched surfaces with disinfectant safe for children and effective for COVID-19
- Review CDC guidance on caring for infants and toddlers

Resources:

- CDC information on operating daycares amid COVID-19: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/guidance-for-childcare.html>
- Information on Idaho daycare licensing requirements: <https://healthandwelfare.idaho.gov/providers/child-care-providers/becoming-child-care-provider>
- Guidance on providing quality daycare and operational considerations during the COVID-19 outbreak from Idaho STARS: <https://idahostars.org>
- Caring for Our Children(CFOC) standards for cleaning, sanitizing and disinfecting educational facilities for children: <https://nrckids.org/CFOC/Database/3.3>
- EPA list of COVID-19 effective disinfectants here (<https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-n-disinfectants-use-against-sars-cov-2>)