



## Guidance: Childcare Programs that are Re-Opening July 7, 2020

Developed by the Louisiana Department of Health, this guidance is based on recommendations from the CDC's guidance for how states can safely start to reopen after months of stay-at-home orders amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

All daycare centers should make plans for proper hygiene of children and staff, disinfecting/cleaning, social distancing and preparations to address instances when someone becomes sick.

### Safety First: Personal Hygiene

**Proper Handwashing:** Childcare centers must ensure that all staff, children and visitors practice proper handwashing:

- upon arrival to the facility and after breaks,
- before and after preparing food or drinks,
- before and after eating or handling food or feeding children,
- before and after administering medication or medical ointment,
- before and after diapering,
- after using the toilet or helping a child use the bathroom,
- after coming in contact with bodily fluid,
- after handling animals or cleaning up animal waste,
- after playing outdoors or in sand, and
- after handling garbage.

**Face Masks:** All staff and other adults who enter the facility must use cloth face masks.

**Hand Sanitizer:** Facilities must provide adequate amounts of soap, as well as hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol content.

**Post Signs:** Proper signage must be placed throughout the facility describing how to practice these hygiene measures.



## Guidance: Childcare Programs that are Re-Opening July 7, 2020

### Cleaning, Disinfection and Ventilation

**Equipment:** Throughout the day, clean, sanitize and disinfect equipment and surfaces that are touched often, such as playground equipment, door handles and drinking fountains. Try not to use items that aren't easily able to be cleaned/sanitized.

**Ensure Proper Ventilation:** Consider keeping doors and windows open if this can be done safely or in a way that does not create another safety risk for children.

**Drinking Water:** Common water fountains should not be used. Consider using single-use, disposable cups or allowing personal water bottles. Any cups or bottles used for drinking should not be shared.

**Remove Poisons/Hazards:** Keep cleaning/disinfecting products away from children.

### Promote Social Distancing

**Keep children in small groups:** Keep them with the same staff/other children all day as much as possible.

**Parents and visitors should not be allowed inside the facility:** Consider staggering arrival and drop off times and plan to limit direct contact with parents as much as possible. Have staff greet children outside as they arrive at a designated drop off/pick up zone.

**Prohibit any field trips,** extracurricular activities, etc., and maintain proper social distancing for any required activities,

**Create Space:** Space desks, seating and napping areas at least 6 feet apart and facing in the same direction as opposed to toward each other.

**Close communal areas** like playgrounds and dining halls or, if not possible, have children use them in shifts and practice proper disinfection between shifts.

**Limit sharing** of eating utensils, art supplies, electronic devices, toys, etc., and plate children's meals separately.

**Practice social distancing** in classrooms, play areas, pick-up/drop-off areas and on school buses.

**Avoid contact with other people** such as hugging and handshaking.



## Guidance: Childcare Programs that are Re-Opening July 7, 2020

### Preparation, Monitoring and Isolation

**Screen** children when they arrive, if possible, in a confidential and safe way re: temperature checks and symptom evaluation.

**Separate children** who show symptoms of COVID-19, but do not leave them unattended. Send them home as soon as possible.

**Follow privacy laws** while also notifying staff, family and local health officials about any suspected COVID-19 cases.

**People with symptoms of COVID-19 or who test positive** for COVID-19 are required to stay home and self-isolate until they are fever free (without the use of fever-reducing medication) for at least three days, their respiratory symptoms have improved and it has been at least 10 days since their symptoms first appeared.

**People who had close contact to a person who tests positive for COVID-19** should stay home and not return to the facility until 14 days after their last contact with the infectious individual. Anyone who was within 6 feet for 15 minutes or more of the person with COVID symptoms would be considered exposed close contact, regardless of whether a mask was worn.

**Have a plan if someone is or becomes sick.** Plan to have an isolation room or area (such as a cot in a corner of the classroom) that can be used to isolate a sick child. Consult with Louisiana OPH and follow CDC guidance on how to disinfect your building or facility if someone is sick, which ideally would include closing the facility for two days to clean and disinfect.

**Community Awareness:** Regularly check data about your area's local coronavirus spread.

### Other Considerations

**COVID Coordinator:** The CDC recommends monitoring for patterns in the spread of COVID-19 throughout the facility and dedicating a single person to be in charge of coronavirus-related concerns.

**Prepare for staffing challenges.** Create flexible leave plans for staff. Plans should address facility staffing in the event of increased staff absences. Coordinate with other local childcare programs and reach out to substitutes to determine their anticipated availability if regular staff members need to stay home if they or their family members are sick.

**Provide** training for staff and education materials for parents about COVID-19-related guidelines.