

# COVID-19 Prevention for Child Care Facilities



In the event schools are closed, licensed child care facilities are able to increase capacity by 1/3 capacity. Everyone has a role in keeping the community healthy, and that includes our child care facilities. Take simple steps to support a healthy environment and community. These are important every day, but especially when preventing the spread of respiratory illnesses like COVID-19.



## Prevention Steps:

- Post signs that promote handwashing and hygienic practices at workplace entrances, restrooms, employee break rooms and in other visible areas.
- *Supervise handwashing*
- Wash hands thoroughly with soap and warm water for at least 20 seconds.
- Dry hands with paper towels and throw the paper towels in the trash.
- Educate staff on good hygiene practices and personal health.
- Allow hand sanitizer for staff and children when needed.

**Caution!** Swallowing alcohol-based hand sanitizers can cause alcohol poisoning if more than a couple of mouthfuls are swallowed. Keep it out of reach of young children and supervise their use.

- Continually sanitize surfaces and items that children may come in contact with.
- Provide tissues, waste baskets and hand sanitizer in areas where employees gather or meet. Provide disposable wipes and other cleaning and disinfecting materials so that frequently touched surfaces (counters, doorknobs, toilets, sinks, phones, etc.) can be properly wiped down by employees before each use.
- Ensure surfaces are being cleaned, followed by disinfecting.
- Continue to closely follow recommendations and requirements for cleaning and sanitizing in your facility.



- Send any child home showing any symptoms of being ill.
- Ensure parents are aware of the importance of keeping children home if they are ill or showing symptoms.
- Isolate children when waiting for parent/guardian to pick them up if they are being sent home ill.
- Remind employees that anyone who becomes sick with a fever and cough at work should go home immediately. They should return only after they are symptom-free for at least 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medicines and/or cough suppressants.
- For employees/children that test positive for COVID-19 or have suspected close contact with others diagnosed case of COVID-19 check with state or local officials before returning to facility.
- Plan for absenteeism by identifying essential functions and creating plans for continuity of operations.
  - Cross-train staff to perform essential functions so you can operate if key people are absent.
  - Consider what you need to maintain critical operations.

## When to wash hands:

- After coughing, sneezing, and wiping noses.
- After any diapering/bathroom times.
- After using the bathroom.
- Before preparing foods.
- After touching your face or hair.
- After handling money or other forms of payment.
- After handling dirty equipment or utensils.
- Before putting on and removing disposable gloves.



## Cleaning and sanitizing

- Remember, disinfecting and sanitizing are not the same. Clean with soap and water to remove dirt and food from surfaces before sanitizers or disinfectants are used. Surfaces that look clean may still have germs on them that you can't see.
- Clean and disinfect surfaces that are frequently touched. Surfaces such as toys, remote controls, sinks, door knobs, bathroom surfaces, keyboards, tables and chairs, and phones and tablets should be cleaned often.
- Follow the instructions on your cleaner for how long the surface needs to remain wet for it to be effective. Be aware of contact times.
- Food-contact surfaces should be washed, rinsed, and sanitized after each use.
- Use disposable gloves for cleaning and disinfecting. Throw them away after each use. If gloves are not disposable, thoroughly disinfect them and only use them for cleaning.
- If you use disinfectant wipes, use according to package directions. Do not reuse the wipes to wipe down multiple surfaces. Throw used wipes in the trash.
- Place all used disposable gloves, and other contaminated items in a lined container before disposing of them with other household waste. Wash your hands (with soap and water or an alcohol-based hand sanitizer) immediately after handling these items.
- For children items that could be placed in the mouth and surfaces that come in direct contact with the bare skin (diapering pads, toilet seats), rinse with water after the appropriate contact time with a disinfectant then air dry.

## Protect your children

- Keep restrooms stocked with soap and towels or hand dryers.
- Provide alcohol-based hand sanitizers for employees/children to use.
- Be sure to clean and sanitize or disinfect any objects or surfaces that children may come in contact with.

## Other Considerations

- Consider adequate cooking procedures and food safety.

Find a list of EPA approved disinfects here: <https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-n-disinfectants-use-against-sars-cov-2>

**For more information:** [www.health.mo.gov/coronavirus](http://www.health.mo.gov/coronavirus)

Updated 3/18/2020

