Interim Guidance for Child Care Facilities Regulated by the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services

The Section for Child Care Regulation recommends that child care facilities take the following steps to help stop or slow the spread of respiratory diseases, including COVID-19:

✓ Stay informed and know where to go for the most current information. Sources of accurate information include the CDC, DHSS and your local county health department.

✓ Consider alternates to group programming:
  o keep children in smaller groups and do not mix groups of children.
  o implement staggered outdoor play times to limit the number of children who are together at one time.

✓ Conduct daily health checks of children and staff
  o Check temperatures and send children home if they have a temperature of 100 degrees F or above.
  o Ask parents at arrival if the child or anyone in the home has signs of respiratory illness (fever, cough, shortness of breath).
  o Ask staff to self-screen by checking themselves for a fever (100.4 degrees F or above) or symptoms of respiratory illness before they interact with children.

✓ Encourage parents to have a plan in the event their child becomes sick. Sick children should not be taken to another child care program or other group setting, even temporarily.

✓ Ensure sick children are isolated and supervised until their parents can pick them up.

✓ Perform routine environmental cleaning.
  o Clean toys, commonly shared items, and touched surfaces like handrails and doorknobs at least daily and when visibly soiled.
  o Set aside toys children have placed in their mouths or otherwise contaminated with bodily fluids, until they have been cleaned and sanitized.

✓ Follow existing procedures for reducing the spread of respiratory illnesses among children and staff, including frequent hand washing and cough etiquette (coughing and sneezing into your elbow).

✓ Stock sinks and restrooms with soap and paper towels. Have a supply of hand sanitizer containing at least 60% alcohol available if soap and water is not readily available.

✓ Place boxes of facial tissues and waste containers for used tissues throughout the child care area and in places readily accessible to children and staff.

This interim guidance is based on what is currently known about the spread and severity of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). DHSS will provide updated guidance as needed and as additional information becomes available. Please check the [CDC website](https://www.cdc.gov) and the [DHSS website](https://www.dhss.mo.gov) periodically for updated guidance.

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