

Gunnison County

Guidance for Reopening Child Care Centers & Homes *COVID-19 PREVENTION*

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With Guidance from:

- *Colorado Department of Health & Human Services Child Care Licensing*
- *Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment*
- *Centers for Disease Control & Prevention*

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COVID Guidance for Social Distancing, Hand Washing, Respiratory Etiquette, High Risk Groups, and Drop Off/Pick Up in the Child Care Setting

Social Distancing

Social distancing strategies should be used when possible in conjunction with limiting group size, face coverings (when appropriate), frequent handwashing, proper respiratory etiquette, and frequent cleaning/disinfecting to prevent the spread of illness in the child care facility. Children and providers should attempt to remain 6ft apart. With children this may not always be possible or appropriate. Be sure that children are still being cared for, and their needs tended to appropriately.

Recommendations:

- Child care classes should include the same group of children with the same teacher day to day
- If possible try to keep siblings in the same group
- Cancel/postpone special events
- Do not intermingle different groups of children for special activities
- Stagger playground times
- If travel through hallways is required stagger groups traveling through halls
- Consider different seating arrangements for desks or circle time to promote 6 feet between children
- At nap time spread mats or cribs out as far as possible, consider putting children head to toe to help increase distance
- Visitors, volunteers, and special services should not be allowed in the Child Care Center
- Consider limitations of small class rooms and evaluate if class size may need to be reduced to attempt to maintain a distance of 6 feet

Special Considerations for Infants & Toddlers

Infants and toddlers often need to be comforted and held. These needs should still be met! In these situations, implement some of the below recommendations to protect providers and children.

- Wear long hair up and out of reach
- Staff should wear oversized long sleeve button down shirt that can be changed easily without being pulled over the head
- Wash hands neck or other areas exposed and touched by children/secretions
- Change children's clothing if soiled with any bodily secretions and change staffs button down shirt if soiled with any bodily secretions
- Soiled clothing should be placed in a plastic bag until it can be laundered (on high possible heat setting)
- Multiple sets of clothing for children and staff should be available
- Be extra vigilant in following diapering policy and performing hand hygiene

Hand Hygiene

Keeping hands clean through improved hand hygiene is one of the most important steps we can take to avoid getting sick and spreading germs to others. Many diseases and conditions are spread by not washing hands with soap and clean, running water. All children, staff, and volunteers should engage in hand hygiene at the following times:

- 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 or sensory table use
- After handling garbage

Wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If hands are not visibly dirty, alcohol-based hand sanitizers with at least 60% alcohol can be used if soap and water are not readily available (children and babies under age 3 should not use hand sanitizer).

Supervise children when they use hand sanitizer to prevent ingestion.

Assist children with handwashing, including infants who cannot wash hands alone.

- After assisting children with handwashing, staff should also wash their hands.

Respiratory Etiquette

Proper respiratory etiquette is important to help stop the spread of germs. In staff and children who are able the following should be followed:

- Cough or sneeze into your upper sleeve or be sure to cover your mouth and nose with a tissue.
- Put your used tissue in a waste basket, do not reuse.
- Remember to wash hands thoroughly after coughing or sneezing

High Risk Groups

If staff members or teachers are:

- Of age 65 or older
- Have serious underlying health conditions (heart disease, lung disease, diabetes, or other chronic conditions)

Encourage them to talk to their health care provider to assess their risk and to determine if they should be present in the Child Care Center. *Public health order compliance will need to be evaluated for these situation as well.

Information about COVID-19 in children is somewhat limited, but the information that is available suggests that many children have mild symptoms or be asymptomatic. However, a small percentage of children have been reported to have more severe illness. If you have children with underlying health conditions, talk to their parents about their risk. Encourage parents to reach out to their child's health care provider for their recommendation.

Drop off & Pick Up Considerations

- Drop off times should be staggered if possible
- Consider meeting parent/guardians at the door and completing the drop off process outside if weather permits
- Maintain social distancing recommendations
- If possible have hand sanitizer or hand washing station near by
- If possible complete the COVID wellness log/take child's temperature before the parent/guardian leaves and child is admitted into the building. If signs of illness are noted child should be sent home before entering the building.
- Once children have entered the building ensure they preform hand hygiene, if appropriate help them don a facial covering
- Avoid having parent/guardians touch sign in/out sheets/kiosks
- Consider having a single staff person to complete the drop off process each day
- If child come with learning materials or other items from home ensure they can be sanitized/disinfected and do so accordingly
- If center is providing masks ensure masks are collected in a trash bag or something similar and then taken to be washed at the end of the day
- If child came with learning materials or other item from home ensure it is sanitized/disinfected and returned at the end of the day

Immunization Status and Health Statements

Parents are expected to maintain current immunization status on their children or have proper exemption forms in place. Gunnison County has their immunization clinic in place on Mondays and Health Care Providers in the valley continue to provide immunization services at this time. If a child is new to a center the State has allowed a 120 day extension on obtaining this but it encourage for it to be done as soon as possible. Doctors' offices are seeing children for well child checks and parents are encouraged to keep on routine medical care.

Face Covering Usage for Child Care Centers and Home Care Providers

It is essential to keep child care providers and the children in their care healthy and safe during the response to COVID-19 in our community. Face coverings should be used in conjunction with limiting group size, social distancing, frequent handwashing, proper respiratory etiquette, and frequent cleaning/disinfecting to achieve this.

Acceptable forms of coverings are as follows: Homemade face masks, bandanas, and scarves. The face covering must have multiple (2+) layers of fabric, fully cover the mouth and nose, be snug and stay in place.

All coverings should be washed daily or more often if it becomes soiled. Face coverings should be washed and dried on the highest heat setting possible with regular household laundry detergent. It is up to the center to decide if they will do this or if they will require parents to do this. Inspect face coverings regularly for holes and signs of wear, if damaged face covering should be discarded and replaced.

Guidance for Teachers/Administrators/Other Adults present in the Child or Home Care Center

-All adults present in the Child Care Center or Home should wear a face covering at all times. Exceptions to this include if the adult works alone in a separate office space, or to eat/drink. Anytime a face covering is applied, readjusted, or removed hand hygiene should be performed, this includes after helping a child with their face covering, as well as, between each child when helping multiple children with their face coverings.

-Parents are highly encouraged to wear a face covering of their own during pick up and drop off. Each center is encouraged to have a pick up and drop off policy in place to limit contact and potential exposure.

Guidance for children age 3 and older

-Children age 3 and older are encouraged to wear a face covering. The face covering should be worn at all times with the following exceptions: to eat or drink and during naps. Children should be supervised at all times while wearing a face covering. For some children face coverings may not be appropriate. If the child is frequently touching or playing with the face covering, or the covering is developmentally inappropriate for a child, use may need to be reevaluated. If a child cannot remove their own face covering they should not wear one. As with adults anytime a face covering is applied, readjusted, played with, or removed the child should preform hand hygiene.

Guidance for children age 2 and under

-Children age 2 and under should not wear a face covering. Limiting group size, social distancing, frequent handwashing, proper respiratory etiquette, and frequent cleaning/disinfecting can help reduce the risk of spread in this age group.

COVID-19 Illness Policy for Child Care Centers and Home Care Providers

All staff, children and anyone else present in the home of a Home Care Provider need to be evaluated for illness at least twice daily. This can be done more frequently if needed and findings should be recorded on the COVID illness log provided in this document. Any signs of illness should be addressed immediately.

Upon drop off, each child should be assessed for any illness present in their household or other potential exposures to illness, as well as, evaluated for signs of illness and these findings are to be documented on the COVID Symptom Log daily. If child is found to have a fever (100.4 or greater) or signs of illness they will not be allowed into the center/classroom/home and should be sent home.

Child Care Centers and Home Care Providers may exclude any child they deem to be ill during this time.

Upon arriving to work, all staff members should complete the COVID Symptom Log for themselves. If found to be ill at any point in the day, they should be sent home. Staff members should not come to work if they are feeling ill or have a fever (100.4 or greater).

What to do if someone falls ill while in the Child Care Center or Home Care Setting:

If at any time, a child shows signs of illness while in child care the provider should separate the child and contact parent/guardian to come get child as soon as possible. The ill child should be isolated in a separate room (while still being supervised) if possible. If not possible, other children and staff should attempt to remain 6 feet away from ill individual, open windows if weather permits.

If a staff member falls ill, they should notify their supervisor immediately. An additional staff member or director should take over the class and the ill staff member should be sent home. Splitting the children up into other classes or combining classes should be avoided to limit possible exposure to others.

Once ill person leaves, if an additional clean room is available, relocate class there until initial room can be cleaned using CDPHE cleaning guidelines. If no additional space is available, take measures to increase air circulation by opening windows if possible, clean or remove known toys, clothes, mask, etc. touched by the ill person and have all people present preform additional hand hygiene.

If the home care provider is to fall ill and has no additional staff to watch children parent/guardians should be contacted to pick up the children as soon as possible. While waiting for children to be picked up be vigilant in social distancing, hand hygiene, respiratory etiquette.

Signs of illness to monitor for include:

- Fever (100.4 or greater)*
- Cough*
- Fatigue*
- Shortness of breath
- Body aches

Signs of illness to monitor continued:

- Runny/stuffy nose

Sore throat
Vomiting/diarrhea
Headache
Loss of smell/taste
*most common symptoms

Closure Criteria

State ordered closure criteria

- Any school in Colorado with a single confirmed case of COVID-19 in a staff or student will close for a minimum of 24 hours for cleaning and social distancing
- Any schools that are closed will partner with their local public health agency to conduct contact tracing and further COVID-19 testing.

Individual Child Care Centers and Home Care Providers may choose to close at any time if they deem necessary for any reason.

Gunnison County Health and Human Services may close any Child Care Center or Home Care Provider they deem necessary at any time.

** This policy should be used in accordance with existing illness policies, in cases where this policy is more stringent than existing policy this policy will take precedence.*

Returning to Child Care After Illness During COVID-19 Response

Children & Staff who were sick

Children and staff members may return to the Child Care Center once ALL of the following requirements have been met:

- Resolution of fever* without the use of fever-reducing medications for 72 hours
- Significant improvement in respiratory symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath)
- At least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared.

Children & Staff who have been confirmed with COVID or presumed to be positive

*School closure for a minimum of 24hrs necessary and must notify Gunnison County Health and Human Services

Children and staff members may return to the Child Care Center once ALL of the following requirements have been met:

- Resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications for 72 hours
- Significant improvement in respiratory symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath)
- At least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared.

Children & Staff with a sick person in their household

Everyone in the home should isolate for 10 days. The child or staff member may return at the end of the isolation period as long as they did not become ill during that time. If they became ill they will need to stay home until ALL of the following requirements have been met:

- Resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications for 72 hours
- Significant improvement in respiratory symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath)
- At least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared.

Child & Staff with a confirmed or probable COVID case in their household

Child or staff member should try to minimize contact with ill person. Child or staff member should remain at home for 10 days after ill person no longer has symptoms. If the child or staff member becomes ill during this time they will need to stay home until ALL of the following requirements have been met:

- Resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications for 72 hours
- Significant improvement in respiratory symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath)
- At least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared.

Home Care Provider

The home care provider may resume providing Home Child Care Services 10 days after the LAST person in the household symptoms started, and ALL of the following requirements have been met for ALL persons living in the home:

- Resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications for 72 hours
- Significant improvement in respiratory symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath)
- At least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared.

Child care center or home care provider may exclude any child if they are deemed to be ill by the child care provider.

** In this document fever will be equal to or greater than 100.4*

Cleaning Protocols for COVID-19 Response

In addition to routine cleaning and disinfecting requirements the following should also be put into place in along with all previous cleaning requirements:

- Facilities should develop a schedule for cleaning and disinfecting.
- Routinely clean, sanitize, and disinfect surfaces and objects that are frequently touched, especially toys and games. This may also include cleaning objects/surfaces not ordinarily cleaned daily such as doorknobs, light switches, classroom sink handles, countertops, nap pads, toilet training potties, desks, chairs, cubbies, and playground structures. Use the cleaners typically used at your facility.
- Use all cleaning products according to the directions on the label. If surfaces are dirty, they should be cleaned using a detergent or soap and water prior to disinfection. Follow the manufacturer's instructions for concentration, application method, and contact time for all cleaning and disinfection products.
- All cleaning materials should be kept secure and out of reach of children. Cleaning products should not be used near children, and staff should ensure that there is adequate ventilation when using these products.
- Toys that cannot be cleaned and sanitized should not be used.
- Toys that children have placed in their mouths or that are otherwise contaminated by body secretions or excretions should be set aside until they are cleaned by hand by a person wearing gloves. Clean with water and detergent, rinse, sanitize with an EPA-registered disinfectant, rinse again, and air-dry. ---You may also clean in a mechanical dishwasher on sanitize or similar setting. Be mindful of items more likely to be placed in a child's mouth, like play food, dishes, and utensils.
- Machine washable cloth toys should be used by one individual at a time or ideally should not be used at all. These toys should be laundered before being used by another child.
- Sensory tables/bins should not be used.
- Do not share toys with other groups of infants or toddlers, unless they are washed and sanitized before being moved from one group to the other.
- Set aside toys that need to be cleaned. Place in a dish pan with soapy water or put in a separate container marked for "soiled toys." Keep dish pan and water out of reach from children. Washing with soapy water is the ideal method for cleaning. Try to have enough toys so that the toys can be rotated through cleanings.
- Children's books, like other paper-based materials such as mail or envelopes, are not considered a high risk for transmission and do not need additional cleaning or disinfection procedures.
- Use bedding (sheets, pillows, blankets, sleeping bags) that can be washed. Keep each child's bedding separate, and consider storing in individually labeled bins, cubbies, or bags. Cots and mats should be labeled for each child. Bedding that touches a child's skin should be cleaned weekly or before use by another child.
- Soft surfaces that cannot be cleaned easily (eg. couch) should be covered with sheet or removable cover that can be laundered.
- Carpeted areas will be vacuumed at the end of each day.