

## Kansas City Public Health Interim Guidance For Childcare Institutions

COVID-19 pandemic is still in Kansas City, MO. The coronavirus is still deadly and capable of quickly taking many lives. As the City of Kansas City, MO moves into its reopening phases, all residents, business owners and employees must continue to observe and practice all COVID-19 physical distancing requirements.

<b>Audience</b>	<b>KC Health Department Recommendation</b>	<b>Other Resources</b>
Childcare institutions, including <i>schools, day cares, child watch services, day camps</i> , etc.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Minimize movement between groups—maintain cohorts.</li> <li>2. Require face masks for children ages 3 and older while indoors.</li> <li>3. CDC <b>does not</b> currently recommend that universal symptom screenings be conducted by schools.</li> <li>4. Staff conducting temperature checks should wear PPE.</li> <li>5. Strongly promote flu immunization for all students and families as soon as it is available.</li> </ol>	<p><a href="#">CDC Guidance for Childcare and Schools</a></p> <p><a href="#">AAP Guidance for School Re-entry</a></p> <p><b>Cancellations/Closure</b> Monitor local, state, and national reports to remain aware of community spread. Promote influenza vaccination to avoid unnecessary closures.</p>

The reopening of facilities that serve children is critical to helping parents and guardians return to work. Working parents are relying upon the safe reopening of childcare programs and facilities in order as they return to work.

### **Safety Actions**

#### **In all Phases:**

#### **Promote healthy hygiene practices**

- Teach and reinforce washing hands and covering coughs and sneezes among children and staff.

- Teach and reinforce use of cloth face coverings among all staff. Face coverings are most essential at times when social distancing is not possible. Staff should be frequently reminded not to touch the face covering and to wash their hands frequently. Information should be provided to all staff on proper use, removal, and washing of cloth face coverings.
- Have adequate supplies to support healthy hygiene behaviors, including soap, hand sanitizer with at least 60 percent alcohol (for staff and older children who can safely use hand sanitizer), and tissues.
- Post signs on how to [stop the spread](#) of COVID-19, [properly wash hands](#), promote everyday protective measures, and [properly wear a face covering](#).

#### **Intensify cleaning, disinfection, and ventilation**

- [Clean, sanitize, and disinfect](#) frequently touched surfaces (for example, playground equipment, door handles, sink handles, drinking fountains) multiple times per day. and shared objects between use.

#### **Based on what we know now from the CDC, [those at high-risk](#)\* for severe illness from COVID-19 are:**

- People **65 years and older**
- People who live in a nursing home or long-term care facility
- People who live or interact frequently with persons with not well controlled underlying medical conditions

#### ***People of **all ages** with **underlying medical conditions**, particularly if not well controlled, including:***

- People with **chronic lung disease** or **moderate to severe asthma**
- People with **high-blood pressure**
- People who have **serious heart conditions**
- People who are **immunocompromised**
- **Many conditions can cause** a person to be immunocompromised, including **cancer treatment, smoking**, bone marrow or organ transplantation, **immune deficiencies**, poorly controlled **HIV** or **AIDS**, and **prolonged use of corticosteroids** and other **immune weakening medications**
- People with **severe obesity** (body mass index [BMI] of 40 or higher)
- People with **diabetes**
- People with **chronic kidney disease undergoing dialysis**
- People with **liver disease**

*\*if more than one = very high risk*

- Avoid use of items (for example, soft or plush toys) that are not easily cleaned, sanitized, or disinfected.
- Ensure safe and correct application of disinfectants and keep products away from children.
- Ensure that ventilation systems operate properly and increase circulation of outdoor air as much as possible by opening windows and doors, using fans, and other methods. Do not open windows and doors if doing so poses a safety or health risk (for example, allowing pollens in or exacerbating asthma symptoms) to children using the facility.
- [Take steps](#) to ensure that all water systems and features (for example, drinking fountains, decorative fountains) are safe to use after a prolonged facility shutdown to minimize the risk of Legionnaires' disease and other diseases associated with water.

### **Ensure social distancing**

- Ensure that classes include the same group of children each day (with a maximum of 20 per group), and that the same childcare providers remain with the same group each day.
- Restrict mixing between groups.
- Limit gatherings, events, and extracurricular activities to those that can maintain social distancing, support proper hand hygiene, and restrict the size of groups.
- Restrict nonessential visitors, volunteers, and activities involving other groups at the same time.
- Space out seating and bedding (head-to-toe positioning) to six feet apart if possible.
- Close communal use spaces, such as game rooms or dining halls, if possible; if this is not possible, stagger use and disinfect in between uses.
- If a cafeteria or group dining room is typically used, serve meals in classrooms instead. Put each child's meal on a plate, to limit the use of shared serving utensils.
- Stagger arrival and drop-off times or put in place other protocols to limit direct contact with parents as much as possible.
- Encourage spaced seating on buses, where feasible.

### **Limit sharing**

- Keep each child's belongings separated and in individually labeled storage containers, cubbies, or areas or taken home each day and cleaned.
- Ensure adequate supplies to minimize sharing of high touch materials to the extent possible (art supplies, equipment etc. assigned to a single camper) or limit use of supplies and equipment by one group of children at a time and clean and disinfect between use.
- If food is offered at any event, have pre-packaged boxes or bags for each attendee instead of a buffet or family-style meal. Avoid sharing of foods and utensils.
- Avoid sharing electronic devices, toys, books, other games, and learning aids.

- Prevent risk of transmitting COVID-19 by avoiding immediate contact (such as shaking or holding hands, hugging, or kissing), as well as by mediated contact.

**Train all staff (Phases 1-3)**

- Train all staff in the above safety actions. Consider conducting the training virtually, or, if in-person, ensure social distancing is maintained.