

Minimizing the Risk of Spreading Coronavirus (COVID-19) in Child Care Facilities

Daily Health Check:

- Conduct a daily health check of all children and staff upon entrance into the facility. This health check must include a temperature check.
- COVID Exclusions: Exclude children, staff, parents, and guardians from sites if:
 - They are showing symptoms of COVID-19, such as
 - Fever greater than **100.4°F**;
 - cough and,
 - shortness of breath.
 - They have been in contact with someone isolated for COVID-19*
 - They have been asked to quarantine for COVID-19*
 - They are at high-risk due to underlying health conditions such as heart or lung disease, or diabetes.

*The health department contacts anyone who has tested positive for COVID-19 or anyone identified as a close contact of a case. They will be under the direction of a public health nurse for isolation, quarantine, and symptom monitoring.
- General Exclusions: Exclude children and staff from the facility if they have the following symptoms upon arrival, during attendance, or in the 24 hours prior to arrival as indicated in the general health statement from the parent/guardian:
 - (a) A fever greater than **100.4°F**;
 - (b) Vomiting;
 - (c) Diarrhea;
 - (d) A bacterial infection such as strep throat, scarlet fever, impetigo, conjunctivitis, or a skin infection unless on antibiotics for 24 hours prior;
 - (e) Chickenpox with active sores;
 - (f) Jaundice; or
 - (g) Uncontrollable coughs and sneezes, difficulty breathing, stiff neck, poor food or fluid intake, or other signs of severe or contagious illness. Isolation area if a child becomes ill at the facility.

Isolation:

- Dedicate a spot to place children if they develop above symptoms onsite. This spot cannot be the kitchen or an area that cannot be supervised.
- Parent/guardian must be immediately called to retrieve child.
- Parents who are concerned that their kid's illness may be COVID-19 need to use a screening tool such as a Focused Screening Center, the Ask a Nurse line, or the Providence online screening tools. Do not call or come to the health department as they do not test or provide

treatment. Please do not go to the Emergency Room or dial 911 unless symptoms are severe. Please visit [Missoula.co/cviro](https://missoula.co/cviro) for Testing and Screening Center information.

- If a child or staff has recently returned from a country or region designated as Level 3 for widespread or sustained spread, please call the **health department at 406-258-3896**. Those who have traveled to these areas cannot return to the childcare until directed to do so by the health department.
- The health department contacts anyone who has tested positive for COVID-19 or anyone who has been identified as a close contact of a case. They will be under the direction of a public health nurse for isolation, quarantine, and symptom monitoring
- For additional information, not for screening, call the Coronavirus Hotline: **406-258-INFO (258-4636)**.

Cleaning, Sanitizing, and Disinfecting:

- Cleaning removes visible dirt and debris using hot soapy water; sanitizing reduces pathogens to safe levels; disinfecting destroys pathogens on a surface.
- Household unscented bleach is the most practical solution for use on food-contact and non-food contact surfaces. Allow surfaces to thoroughly air dry after applying bleach solution. Refresh bleach solutions daily. If using a product other than bleach, ensure it is an EPA approved cleaning product effective at inactivating COVID-19. Always use in accordance with label instructions. Only use products safe for food contact surfaces on those surfaces.
- Restrooms cleaned and disinfected daily with ¼ cup of bleach per gallon of water.
- Disinfect toys **daily** with ¼ cup of bleach per gallon of water.
- Clean and disinfect commonly touched surfaces with ¼ cup bleach per gallon of water throughout the day or at least daily.
- Disinfect nap mats, cots, or cribs with ¼ cup of bleach per gallon after use.
- Sanitize tabletop eating surfaces with 50-100ppm bleach (1/4 teaspoon bleach to 1 quart of water).
- Clean and disinfect diaper changing station with ¼ cup bleach to 1 gallon of water between uses.

Distancing:

- Reduce group sizes to no larger than 10 people total, including children and staff. Continue to adhere to Montana Child Care Licensing ratios for specific age groups.
- Keep grouped children together throughout the day. Do not combine groups, and if possible, maintain the same groups from day to day. Where possible, keep family units in the same group.
- Incorporate social distancing, also known as physical distancing within the group to the degree possible. Social distancing means providing physical separation between people of at least six feet.
- Plan activities that do not require close physical contact between multiple children.
- Limit items that are shared between children. If items are shared, remind children to wash their hands after sharing. Disinfect shared items in accordance with toy cleaning policies.
- Incorporate outside time and open windows frequently to allow fresh air.
- Provide outdoor play in staggered shifts, if possible, to prevent the congregation of groups.

- Stagger eating times to avoid congregation of large groups. Sanitize tabletop eating surfaces between mealtimes for each group.
- Alternate drop-off and pick-up times to avoid large groups from congregating. Implement a sign-in and sign-out policy that minimizes risk of transmission. This may look different for each facility but can include having parents wash hands or use hand sanitizer upon entrance, using a pen rotation system where parents can use a pen from a “clean” bin and then transfer it to a “dirty” bin where it will get disinfected for later use, or encourage parents to use their own pens. The key point being, if items are shared, people should wash their hands afterwards and avoid touching their faces with unclean hands.

Hygiene:

- Pay close attention to proper handwashing by staff and children
 - Wash hands often with soap and water, scrubbing for at least 20 seconds--especially upon arrival at the facility, after using the restroom, before eating, after coughing, sneezing, or blowing your nose.
- Be vigilant about keeping children’s fingers out of their mouths and remind them not to touch their eyes or nose.
- Encourage all to cover their coughs or sneezes.
- Avoid family style meal service. Use gloves or tongs when preparing or distributing any food to avoid barehand contact.