



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

Updated 4/3/20

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 have traveled outside of the state in the last 14 days**
 - They are in a high-risk population including:
 - People who are 65 years or older
 - People with underlying health conditions such as heart, lung, or liver disease, diabetes, or moderate to severe asthma
 - People who are immunocompromised, including those undergoing cancer treatment
 - People of any age with severe obesity (BMI \geq 40)

*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.

**Those who have traveled outside of Montana in the last 14 days or plan to travel outside of the state, must self-quarantine for two weeks from the day of return per the Governor's March 30, 2020 directive. Travelers are not monitored by the health department.

- 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 go 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://www.missoula.co/cviro) for Testing and Screening Center information.
- A child or staff member who traveled outside of the state must follow the Governor's self-quarantine directive.
- 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, call the Coronavirus Hotline: **406-258-INFO (258-4636)**.

Cleaning, Sanitizing, and Disinfecting:

- Intensify cleaning efforts throughout the facility.
- 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.
- Clean and disinfect restrooms daily with ¼ cup of bleach per gallon of water.
- Only use toys that can be cleaned and disinfected. Clean and disinfect toys **daily** with ¼ cup of bleach per gallon of water. Cloth toys should be laundered before being used by another child. If possible, implement a toy rotation system to allow time for cleaning between days. Mouthed toys should be set aside until cleaned. Do not share toys between different groups unless cleaned and sanitized beforehand.
- Clean and disinfect commonly touched surfaces with ¼ cup bleach per gallon of water throughout the day.
- Disinfect nap mats, cots, or cribs with ¼ cup of bleach per gallon after use.
- Clean and sanitize tabletop eating surfaces or food contact 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.
- Wash all bedding and laundry using a hot water wash and a hot air dry.

Distancing:

- Where possible, limit the total number of children in a facility to 24.
- Limit group sizes to 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 maintain the same groups from day to day. Where possible, keep family units in the same group.
- To the extent possible, children may not access a classroom space allocated to a different group of children.
- 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 in a group. If items are shared, remind children to wash their hands after sharing. Disinfect shared items in accordance with toy cleaning policies.
- Avoid use of outdoor play structures, especially when it is difficult or impractical to sanitize between uses.
- 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.