

Health & Safety Best Practices in Child Care Settings During COVID-19

Cleaning

- Increase cleaning and disinfection routines to multiple times per day.
- Follow regular cleaning protocols and use a disinfectant recognized by the EPA as being effective against coronavirus; a list of such disinfectants can be found on the [EPA website](#).
- Ensure children do not come in contact with cleaning supplies.
- Carefully follow the instructions on the product label.

Toys

- Consider removing materials from the classroom that are difficult to clean (e.g., soft toys).
- Keep a designated bin for separating toys that have been in children's mouths. When a child is done with a mouthed toy, place it in a bin that is inaccessible to other children and wash hands. Clean and sanitize toys prior to returning them to the children's play area.
- Clean and sanitize all toys at the end of the day (laundry machines and dishwashers may be used on the warmest setting).

Activities

- Maintain physical distancing as much as possible by keeping smaller group sizes and choosing activities that don't require children to be close together.
- Increase the amount of time spent outdoors.

Family Engagement

- Consider implementing new policies such as washing hands upon entry and conducting pick up and drop off outside the building to limit the number of people entering the facility.
- Conduct morning health checks.
- Closely communicate with families and staff to update emergency contact information, inform families and staff about your policies, and require families and staff to notify you if anyone experiences symptoms or is diagnosed with COVID-19 (you must then notify your public health department).

Stay Informed

- The primary strategies to slow the spread of COVID-19 are: **1) staying home when ill, 2) personal hygiene (frequent hand washing, cough into sleeve, etc.), 3) cleaning and disinfecting surfaces, and 4) physical distancing.**
- Monitor reliable local and state news to stay up to date on guidelines and resources (i.e. county health department, local Resource & Referral agency, Community Care Licensing).