

GUIDANCE FOR CHILD CARE SETTINGS

***Please refer to www.cdc.gov for most up-to-date recommendations regarding COVID-19.

Administrators should reinforce healthy practices among their staff and children. As the global outbreak evolves, child care facilities should prepare for the possibility of community-level outbreaks. Child care facilities need to be ready if COVID-19 does appear in their communities.

The Stay at Home Order and your Child Care setting.

- Businesses or independent providers that provide childcare or other dependent services but only to the extent that they provide services to people who are necessary employees of Essential Businesses, and including specifically without limitation Healthcare Operations, police departments, fire districts, jails, corrections medicine services, emergency management functions, food distribution companies, groceries, restaurants, pharmacies, public transit agencies, or businesses that manufacture or supply products necessary to meet Social Distancing Requirements, provided that they take reasonable actions to comply with Social Distancing Requirements, and provided that:
 - childcare must be carried out in stable groups of twelve or fewer ("stable" means that the same twelve or fewer children are in the same group each day);
 - children shall not change from one group to another in the same day;
 - if more than one group of children is cared for at one facility, each group shall be in a separate room and groups shall not mix with each other; and
 - childcare providers shall remain solely with one group of children in the same day.

Postpone non-critical gatherings and events.

- Ensure you have a clear understanding of all upcoming gatherings and ensure they comply with the all County COVID-19 executive orders, which can be found stlcorona.com.

Teach and reinforce healthy hygiene practices.

- Train staff on healthy hygiene practices so they can teach these to children.
- Ensure handwashing strategies include washing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom; before eating; and after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing. If soap and water are not available and hands are not visibly dirty, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.
- Ensure adequate supplies (e.g., soap, paper towels, hand sanitizer, tissue) to support healthy hygiene practices.

Intensify cleaning and disinfection efforts.

- Routinely clean and disinfect surfaces and objects that are frequently touched. This may include cleaning objects/surfaces not ordinarily cleaned daily (e.g., doorknobs, light switches, classroom sink handles, countertops). For disinfection most common EPA-registered household disinfectants should be effective. A list of products that are EPA-approved for use against the virus that causes COVID-19 is available at <https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-n-disinfectants-use-against-sars-cov-2>.
- Provide EPA-registered disposable wipes to teachers and staff so that commonly used surfaces (e.g., keyboards, desks, remote controls) can be wiped down before use.
- Ensure adequate supplies to support cleaning and disinfection practices.

Require sick children and staff to stay home. Establish procedures for children and staff who are sick at the child care facility.

- Establish procedures to ensure children and staff who become sick at the child care facility or arrive at the child care facility sick are sent home as soon as possible.
- Keep sick children and staff, particularly those with symptoms of respiratory illness, separate from well children and staff until they can leave. Plan to have areas where these individuals can be isolated from well children and limit staff interaction until they can leave the child care facility.

Implement multiple social distancing strategies.

Select strategies based on feasibility given the unique space and needs of the child care facility. Child care facilities may consider strategies such as:

- **Increase the space between desks.** Rearrange student desks to maximize the space between children. Turn desks to face in the same direction (rather than facing each other) to reduce transmission caused from virus-containing droplets (e.g., from talking, coughing, sneezing).
- **Avoid mixing children in common areas.** Restrict hallway use through homeroom stays or staggered release of classes. Try to avoid taking multiple classes to bathrooms at once (e.g., avoid having all classes use the bathroom right after lunch or recess). Consider staggering playground use rather than allowing multiple classes to play together, and limit other activities where multiple classes interact.
- **Stagger arrival and/or dismissal times.** These approaches can limit the amount of close contact between children in high-traffic situations and times.
- **Limit nonessential visitors.** Limit the presence of volunteers for classroom activities, mystery readers, cafeteria support, and other activities.
- **Limit cross-school transfer for special programs.** For example, if children are brought from multiple child care facilities for special programs (e.g., music, robotics, academic clubs), consider using distance learning to deliver the instruction or temporarily offering duplicate programs in the participating schools.

For more information regarding COVID-19 and Child Care settings in the State of Missouri, please reference <https://health.mo.gov/safety/childcare/covid-19-updates.php>

Thank you for being diligent in addressing the Stay at Home Order and the implications for your business. We understand that many businesses will need to be creative in identifying how this applies to them and their services. While we cannot help identify specifically how this applies to your business, all efforts at social distancing and reduced contact and gatherings are activities that are greatly encouraged by the Saint Louis County Department of Public Health.

Find more information at stlcorona.com. You can also contact the Saint Louis County Department of Public Health at **314-615-2660** or infointel2@stlouisco.com.

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