



LINCOLN-LANCASTER COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT
DHM 2021-18
Appendix 3 Requirements and Guidance for Childcare Facilities
February 12, 2021

The following are Requirements and Guidelines for childcare facilities.

1) Requirements

All licensed Child Care Facilities Shall:

- a. Immediately exclude ill children and staff who have [symptoms](#) consistent with COVID-19 including, but not limited to:
 - One** of the following: fever of 100.4 or greater, new onset of dry cough, onset of shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, new onset of loss of taste or smell; or
 - Two** of the following: chills longer than two hours, congestion and/or runny nose, muscle pain, headache, sore throat, nausea, diarrhea, or vomiting.
- b. Upon entry, take temperatures of all children and staff, and recheck an additional time during the afternoon. Dismiss any staff or child with a temperature above 100.4° F.
- c. Immediately after entering the facility, require all children and staff to wash hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water or use hand sanitizer.
- d. Disinfect all high touch surfaces at least every four (4) hours with an [EPA registered product](#).
- e. Not allow staff or children to share cups, glasses, bottles, and eating utensils.
- f. Not use toys and other items that cannot be cleaned and sanitized/disinfected.
- g. Require all individuals age five (5) and older to wear a face covering over their mouth and nose while indoors unless the individual maintains at least six (6) feet of separation at all times from anyone who is not their household member.

2) Guidance

- a. Post Directed Health Measure requirements at entry to the facility.
- b. Review guidance from [CDC on COVID-19 in Schools and Child Care](#).
- c. Monitor staff's and children's health throughout the day, quickly excusing anyone who exhibits COVID [symptoms](#). Communicate daily with staff that they must immediately inform the director if they or a child feel sick or experiences symptoms consistent with COVID-19 noted in 1(a) above. Staff or parents should contact their health care provider or complete the [online COVID assessment](#).
- d. Minimize group size as much as possible. If more than one (1) group of children is cared for at one (1) facility, to the extent possible, keep each group in a separate room which is separated by either physical walls or sufficient airspace.
- e. To every extent possible, do not move children between groups and maintain the same teachers with the same groups of children every day, and do not allow staff or children to relocate or work between different centers.
- f. It is recommended children over age two (2) years old wear face coverings if capable. Children under age two (2) shall not wear face covers due to the risk of suffocation.

Face coverings shall not be worn at naptime. Cloth face coverings shall be laundered daily. More information on face coverings can be found [here:https://www.healthychildren.org/English/health-issues/conditions/COVID-19/Pages/Cloth-Face-Coverings-for-Children-During-COVID-19.aspx](https://www.healthychildren.org/English/health-issues/conditions/COVID-19/Pages/Cloth-Face-Coverings-for-Children-During-COVID-19.aspx)

- g. Increase spacing as much as possible between mats/cots at naptime. Consider alternating head/feet direction to limit face-to-face contact when possible.
- h. Create a response plan for any instance of an employee with a suspected or confirmed case of COVID-19.
- i. As much as possible, practice physical distancing. Redesign workflows to minimize interactions that meet the close contact criteria. Close contacts of a COVID-19 positive individual are required to self-quarantine. Maintaining groups may reduce the number of staff/children that must self-quarantine for 14-days in the event there is a positive case of COVID-19 in the facility.
- j. Create and implement an enhanced cleaning/[sanitizing](#) schedule for all food contact surfaces, and cleaning/[disinfecting](#) of non-food contact surfaces. Increase disinfection frequency of commonly touched surfaces throughout entire facility, including but not limited to, door handles, check-in stations, and bathrooms.
- k. Keep a designated bin for separating mouthed toys and maintain awareness of children's behaviors. When a child is finished with a mouthed toy, remove it, place it in a toy bin that is inaccessible to other children, and wash hands. Clean and sanitize toys before returning to children's area.
- l. Remove soft toys that cannot be easily cleaned during the coronavirus outbreak. Soft toys that are machine-washable should be washed often at the warmest temperature recommended on the label and dried thoroughly.
- m. Clean and disinfect water and sensory play activities between groups of children.
- n. Postpone or cancel most field trips. Carefully consider how to incorporate physical distancing, hand hygiene/sanitizer, and other COVID-19 control measures and requirements in route to and at the destination. Communicate with site to ensure safety for everyone. When in doubt, postpone or cancel field trips.
- o. Enhance employee safety training, emphasizing proper handwashing, and hygiene etiquette.
- p. Implement the following safety protocols if college students are working: Require college/university students to obtain a COVID-19 test monthly and provide results to the childcare center. To every extent possible, college/university students should minimize contact with the infants, toddlers or children not wearing face coverings.
- q. Have hand sanitizer and sanitizing products readily available for parents, staff, and children.
- r. Implement touchless check in/out, and payment options if possible.
- s. Keep up to date on local guidance and community spread at <https://lincoln.ne.gov/city/covid19/>
- t. The American Academy of Pediatrics has helpful resources at <https://www.healthychildren.org/English/health-issues/conditions/COVID-19/Pages/default.aspx>
- u. For specific questions regarding your center, contact LLCHD Child Care program at 402-441-6280 or healthychildcare@lincoln.ne.gov.

Lincoln Municipal Code 8.14.100 Communicable Diseases Reporting and Illness Exclusion states:
The operator shall report within 24 hours to the Health Director when:

- (i) three (3) or more children and/or staff in a classroom or group are ill with a reportable communicable disease, diarrhea, or vomiting; or
- (ii) one (1) child or staff has bloody diarrhea. Please report as per 8.14.100 or **any children or staff that have been excluded due to fever** by completing the Child Care Illness Symptom Report using the link or QR code below. **If you are only reporting a fever, please answer questions #1 and #2 on page 1, then select “NONE” on question #3. Select “NEXT” to end the illness report survey.** If you are reporting an illness as required by LMC 8.14, please complete the entire survey.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CCIllnessReporting>



IPhone: Open camera and aim at QR Code, message will appear asking to open link.