



LINCOLN-LANCASTER COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT
Guidance for Preventing COVID-19 in Childcare Facilities
December 24, 2021

- A. Every childcare provider should be vaccinated for COVID-19 and get their booster as soon as eligible.
- B. All childcare providers and visitors should wear a face covering in indoor settings.
- C. Children two years of age and older should wear face coverings. Children under age two should not wear face coverings. Face coverings shall not be worn at naptime. Cloth face coverings should 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>
- D. Upon entry screen all children and staff for the following symptoms:
- **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.
- Immediately exclude children and staff who have new onset of any of these [symptoms](#) or combination of symptoms as noted above. Monitor children and staff for symptoms throughout the day and excluded accordingly.
- E. 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.
- F. Disinfect all high touch surfaces at least every four (4) hours with an [EPA registered product](#).
- G. Do not allow staff or children to share cups, glasses, bottles, and eating utensils.
- H. Review CDC [Guidance for Operating Child Care Programs during COVID-19 \(cdc.gov\)](#)
- I. Monitor staff 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 D above. Staff or parents should contact their health care provider.
- J. 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.
- K. 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.
- L. Increase spacing as much as possible between mats/cots at naptime. Consider alternating head/feet direction to limit face-to-face contact when possible.
- M. Create a response plan for if you have children or staff with COVID-19 in the childcare.
- N. As much as possible, practice physical distancing. 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 in the event there is a positive case of COVID-19 in the facility.

- O. 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.
- P. 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.
- Q. Do not use toys and other items that cannot be cleaned and sanitized/disinfected. Soft toys that are machine-washable should be washed often at the warmest temperature recommended on the label and dried thoroughly.
- R. Clean and disinfect water and sensory play activities between groups of children.
- S. When taking 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.
- T. Enhance employee safety training, emphasizing proper handwashing, and hygiene etiquette.
- U. Have hand sanitizer and sanitizing products readily available for parents, staff, and children.
- V. Implement touchless check in/out, and payment options if possible.
- W. Keep up to date on local guidance and community spread at <https://lincoln.ne.gov/city/covid19/>
- X. The American Academy of Pediatrics has helpful resources at <https://www.healthychildren.org/English/health-issues/conditions/COVID-19/Pages/default.aspx>
- Y. 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.