



CENTER FOR  
EARLY LEARNING  
PROFESSIONALS  
Professional Development • Technical Assistance • Research

*Re-Opening Child Care in  
Rhode Island: Health and  
Safety Guidance for Child  
Care during the COVID-19  
Pandemic*

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### Learning Objectives

Participants will:

- Gain knowledge about CDC, RI Dept. of Health, and RI Dept. of Human Services guidance for providing child care during the pandemic.
- Consider how you will implement practices based on the guidance.
- Plan for maintaining best practices.

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### Topics

- CDC Guidance for Child Care Programs
- Additional Guidance from DHS & Review of Applicable Regulations
- Developmentally Appropriate Practices & Supporting Children and Families

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## Planning for These Policies

- Child illness policy
- Drop-off and pick-up procedures
- Cleaning and sanitization protocols
- Handwashing guidelines
- Staffing plan
- Plan for gross motor play for stable groups

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## CDC Guidance for Child Care Programs Remaining Open

The CDC has recommended additional considerations for child care programs remaining open during the COVID-19 pandemic:

- Implementing social distancing strategies
- Maintaining a safe staff-child ratio
- Intensifying cleaning and disinfecting efforts
- Modifying drop off and pick up procedures

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## Social Distancing Strategies

- Separate stable groups of children
- Do not use indoor common spaces
- Shared outdoor play spaces need to be cleaned frequently
- Limit movement across spaces
- Provisions for shared bathrooms



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## Visitors

- Visitors should be discouraged from visiting the program during the pandemic.
- Any visitors should document their arrival and departure on a visitor log that is kept onsite and available.
- All visitors must complete the screening tool.

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## Group Size & Ratios

- Stable groups
- Children should be grouped with the same children everyday- not mixed
- If possible, staff should not move between groups of children



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## Family Child Care Capacity

- Stable groups of ten children or fewer- with no more than a maximum group of 12 (including providers, assistants, and household members)
- Capacity for a provider with no other individuals in the home- 6 children
  - 2 children under 18 months
  - 2 additional children under 6 years old
- Capacity for a provider with no other individuals in the home that does have an assistant- 8 children
  - No more than 4 children under 18 months
- If the provider has children or other individuals in the home capacity numbers must be adjusted to limit the total number in the home to 12 or less during child care

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## Group Family Child Care Home Capacity

- Child care must be carried out in stable groups of 12 individuals or fewer
- All individuals in the home count toward the total of 12- the maximum number of 12 individuals is inclusive of everyone in the home
- Each shift of child care must adhere to this definition

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## Child Care Center Capacity

- Child care is carried out in stable groups of 10 children

Age Group	Maximum Staff/Child Ratios	Maximum Staff/Child Group Size
Younger Infants (6 weeks- 12 months)	1:4	2:8
Older Infants (12-18 months)	1:4	2:8
Toddlers (18-36 months)	1:6	2:10
Preschool 3	1:9	2:10
Preschool 4	1:10	2:10
Preschool 5&6	1:10	2:10
School Age K	1:11	2:10
School Age G1+	1:11	2:10

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## Cleaning Requirements



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## How to Clean and Disinfect

### Hard (Non-porous) Surfaces

- If surfaces are dirty, they should be cleaned using a detergent or soap and water prior to disinfection.
- For disinfection, most common EPA-registered household disinfectants should be effective. Follow manufacturer's directions.

### Soft (Porous) Surfaces

- If dirty, clean with appropriate cleaners indicated for use on these surfaces.
- Then launder items in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions using the warmest appropriate water setting for the items and then dry items completely OR use EPA-registered disinfectants.

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## Considerations for Toys & Materials



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- Remove any materials and toys that cannot be cleaned and sanitized.
- Do not share materials between classrooms.
- Maintain precautions for mouthed toys.
- Cloth toys should be washed before being used by another child.
- Books do not require additional cleaning or disinfecting procedures."

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## Considerations for Bedding and Clothes

- Use only bedding that can be washed.
- Store bedding in individually labeled bins or bags.
- Label cots/cribs for each child's individual use and place 6 feet apart.
- Wash items as appropriate in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. If possible, use the warmest water setting for the items and dry items completely.

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## Routine Cleaning Schedule & Plan

Written plan:

- What/where is cleaned daily? Weekly?
- Special accommodations for high-touch surfaces
- Who will be responsible for cleaning?
- Plans for cleaning toys, soft surfaces, shared spaces
- Adhering to cleaning and sanitizing procedures

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## Example of Routine Schedule

**K** Caring for Our Children: National Health and Safety Performance Standards

**Routine Schedule for Cleaning, Sanitizing, and Disinfecting**

Area	Area Type	Clean	Sanitize	Disinfect	Daily, at the end of the day	Weekly	Monthly	Comments
<b>CLASS AREA</b>								
• Classroom surfaces	Classroom Surfaces	Check	Sanitize					Use a sanitizer with 70% alcohol.
• Tables & chairs	Classroom Surfaces	Check	Sanitize					Use a sanitizer with 70% alcohol.
• Toys & equipment	Classroom Surfaces	Check	Sanitize					Use a sanitizer with 70% alcohol.
• High-touch surfaces	Classroom Surfaces	Check	Sanitize					Use a sanitizer with 70% alcohol.
• Floor	Classroom Surfaces	Check	Sanitize					Use a sanitizer with 70% alcohol.
• Restrooms	Restrooms	Check	Sanitize					Before serving lunch.
• Hallways	Hallways	Check	Sanitize					
• Kitchen	Kitchen	Check	Sanitize					
<b>OUTSIDE AREA</b>								
• Playground	Playground	Check	Sanitize					Use a sanitizer with 70% alcohol.
• Restrooms	Restrooms	Check	Sanitize					Use a sanitizer with 70% alcohol.
• Hallways	Hallways	Check	Sanitize					
• Entry & exit	Entry & exit	Check	Sanitize					

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## Handwashing Protocols

**Wash Your Hands!**  
**¡Lávase Las Manos!**

- 1 Wet Hands**  
Mojéate las manos
- 2 Soap**  
Enjabónese
- 3 Wash for 20 seconds**  
Lávase las manos por 20 segundos
- 4 Rinse**  
Enjuáguese
- 5 Dry**  
Secuese las manos
- 6 Turn Off Water with Paper Towel!**  
Cierra el grifo usando un toallito de papel

Product by University of North Carolina System & Carolina Center for the Children/Carolina Center Health Department

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## Handwashing Guidance

- Wash hands following the protocol, at least 20 seconds, especially:
  - When entering the classroom and coming in from outside
  - After coughing, sneezing, blowing nose
  - Before and after prepping food, eating, or feeding children
  - Before and after diapering
  - After coming in contact with any bodily fluid
  - After using the toilet or assisting a child in the bathroom
  - Handling garbage

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## Recommendations for Meals and Snacks

- All meals and snacks should be brought from home.
- Children should not share food or utensils.
- All family-style meals and snacks should be avoided.

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## Modifying Drop-Off & Pick-Up Procedures

- Set up hand hygiene provisions at entrance.
- If possible, place sign-in stations outside of the program.
- Designate staff for this task.
- Consider staggering arrival and departure times.

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## Screening for Illness

- If anyone in the home has a fever or cold symptoms- children should not be sent to the program.
- Families and staff will sign off each day at drop-off that no one in the home has a fever or cold symptoms using the COVID Screening Tool provided.

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## Screening Tool for Children & Staff

**COVID-19 Screening Tool**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Reason for entering facility: \_\_\_\_\_

Health/Medical Conditions (Include all current conditions): \_\_\_\_\_

COVID-19 Symptoms	YES	NO
• Cough		
• Sore throat or difficulty swallowing		
• Fatigue		
• Runny nose		
• Fever		
• Loss of taste or smell		
• Headache		
• Nausea		

The purpose of this COVID-19 Screening Tool is to identify children and staff who are at risk of COVID-19. It is not intended to diagnose COVID-19. If you have any questions, please contact the Center for Early Learning and Innovation at (630) 318-1234.

COVID-19 Symptoms	YES	NO
• Cough		
• Sore throat or difficulty swallowing		
• Fatigue		
• Runny nose		
• Fever		
• Loss of taste or smell		
• Headache		
• Nausea		

Facility Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Staff Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Center for ELI?  YES  NO

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## Illness Policies



Isolate sick children immediately in a specified room or area

Contact families immediately

If child agrees, he or she should wear mask

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## Guidance on Quarantining Practices

Decisions about quarantining due to COVID-19 exposure will be made in partnership with RI Dept. of Health.

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## Disclosure of Quarantining Instruction

- Family Child Care Home: Immediately contact DHS Child Care Licensing if family child care provider, assistant or member of household has been instructed to isolate or quarantine due to COVID-19 exposure
- Child Care Center: Immediately contact DHS Child Care Licensing if any staff members have been instructed to isolate or quarantine due to COVID-19 exposure
- Failure to report an instruction to quarantine could result in revoking of child care license.

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## Plan for Safety for Staff

- Create a plan for the event of increased staff absences.
- Reach out to potential substitutes now to determine their availability.
- Plan for safety in the building- increased cleaning, limits on where staff go, systems that align with social distancing.

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## Personal Protection Considerations

- All adults are required to wear face masks.
- Cloth masks or face covers are acceptable.



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## Special Considerations for Infants & Toddlers

- The nature of high- quality infant and toddler care requires lots of holding, cuddling, and being close.
- You can protect yourself by:
  - Wearing a large button-down shirt or smock
  - Using one shirt or smock per child to reduce exposure between children
  - Wearing long hair in an up-do or away from neck and face
  - Wash your hands, face, neck, chest, etc. often
  - Place contaminated clothes in a plastic bag and launder at home.

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## Supporting Children's Emotional Health



- Reassurance
  - Safety, acknowledge emotions
- Routines
  - Schedules support predictability
- Regulation
  - Validation and practice

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## Maintaining Developmentally Appropriate Practice



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## Supporting Families



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## Questions for Reflection

- What burning questions do you still have?
- What are your biggest concerns?
- What do you feel most equipped to handle?

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## National Resources & Guidance

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)  
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/guidance-for-childcare.html>
- Caring for Our Children, (CFOC)  
<https://nrckids.org/CFOC>
- Child Care Aware of America  
<https://info.childcareaware.org/coronavirus-updates>

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## Local Resources & Guidance

- Rhode Island Department of Health  
<https://health.ri.gov/diseases/ncov2019/>
- Rhode Island Department of Human Services  
<http://www.dhs.ri.gov/Programs/CCAPProviderResourceNewPageLAC.php>
- The Center for Early Learning Professionals  
[www.center-elp.org](http://www.center-elp.org)

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## Contact Information

The Center for Early Learning Professionals  
401-736-9020  
[www.center-elp.org](http://www.center-elp.org)

DHS Contact  
[DHS.ChildCareLicensing@dhs.ri.gov](mailto:DHS.ChildCareLicensing@dhs.ri.gov)

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