

Interim Guidance for Child Care Facilities Licensed by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE)

May 18, 2020

This guidance is based on what is currently known about the spread and severity of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). The purpose of the guidance is to prevent the spread of COVID-19 among child care facilities, families, and communities. KDHE will provide updated guidance as necessary based on the changing situation.

Please review the [CDC COVID website](#), [CDC guidance](#), and [KDHE COVID-19 Resource Microsite](#) periodically for updated information for a variety of settings as well as public health and health care professionals. In addition to this guidance, FAQs for child care facilities are available on the KDHE COVID Resource Center. Visit the [KDHE Child Care Licensing website](#) for more information about child care facilities and licensing regulations for all program types. Other information and help are available on the [Kansas COVID-19 Response and Recovery website](#).

TABLE OF CONTENTS

KDHE’S POSITION ON CONTINUING OPERATIONS FOR CHILD CARE	2
Important Things to Keep in Mind.....	2
Ongoing Recommendations for Licensed Child Care Facilities.....	3
RECOMMENDATIONS FOR MAINTAINING A HEALTHY & SAFE ENVIRONMENT	4
Drop-off and Pick-Up	4
Screening	4
Exclusion	5
COVID-19 Cases in the Facility	5
Daily Routines (Updated)	6
Cleaning and Disinfecting (Updated).....	7
MORE INFORMATION (Updated).....	8
KDHE Resources	8
CDC Resources.....	8
Other Federal Agency and Partner Resources	9
American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP)	9
National Resource Center for Health & Safety in Child Care and Early Education	9
Child Care Aware of America	9
ATTACHMENT A: OPTIONAL HEALTH SCREENING TOOL	10

KDHE'S POSITION ON CONTINUING OPERATIONS FOR CHILD CARE

At this time, KDHE supports continuity of operations for child care. Child care facilities (family child care and center-based care) that are willing and able to continue to operate are providing an essential service for working parents and are a crucial economic support to communities. Licensed child care, with its emphasis on healthy and safe daily routines, provides a stabilizing and often familiar setting for children while parents are away at work. Although child care has been identified as an essential support for families and communities, child care licensees may independently decide to temporarily close based on their own unique situation.

KDHE has not placed any restrictions or limitations on operations, so facilities may continue to operate within the terms of current licenses. However, it is important to note that the Kansas public health system supports state and local shared responsibility and decision making in response to a public health emergency. In response to the COVID-19 public health emergency, local health officers have the statutory authority (K.S.A. 65-119, K.S.A. 65-129b, K.S.A. 65-202) to make decisions independently from the KDHE/state public health officer. Additionally, local officials have the authority to issue community stay-at-home orders and/or to place additional requirements on individuals and employers/businesses as necessary to ensure health, safety, and to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Local officials also have the authority to issue isolation and quarantine orders.

KDHE encourages providers to remain in close communication with their local public health department as situations regarding COVID-19 are changing frequently. Local health officials are able to provide community level guidance and recommendations that support the efforts of child care providers to maintain healthy and safe environments.

Important Things to Keep in Mind

- Licensed child care facilities are required to continue to operate within the terms of their licenses and to comply with all licensing laws and regulations.
- KDHE Child Care Licensing will not issue blanket exceptions to increase capacity or eliminate other health and safety requirements as part of the COVID-19 response. This includes issuing temporary licenses for an existing facility to operate in an alternate location.
- If a facility's license is issued for a location that is closed (e.g., school, church, community center), the licensee cannot legally operate at an alternate location because the authorization to care for children only applies to location/address printed on the license.
- In the absence of more restrictive guidance from either state or local health officials, new enrollment is permitted in accordance to the terms of the current license (ages of children, group sizes, total capacity, etc.). When enrolling new children, it is critical that health screening happens prior to entry and ongoing for

all new and existing children. NOTE: Screening and monitoring for signs and symptoms of illness have always been a part of maintaining a healthy and safe environment. Screening should happen prior to entry and on an ongoing basis for all children and staff. Strong exclusion policies and increased sanitation is essential. These provisions are in place in order to prevent the spread of infectious disease.

- Consider prioritizing care to children of health care workers and first responders. If your facility has multiple classrooms/units consider creating a separate classrooms/units just for the children of health care workers and first responders. This is not required. No additional screening or exclusion policies apply to health care workers' children or to children living in counties with confirmed cases.
- Let your local resource and referral know when you have vacancies and are able to care for children of health care workers and first responders.
- Specific licensing questions should be referred to your local licensing surveyor. For more information about local licensing contacts, visit our website at <http://www.kdheks.gov/kidsnet> and click on *Local County Contacts* (http://www.kdheks.gov/bcclr/download/county_contacts.pdf).

Ongoing Recommendations for Licensed Child Care Facilities

- Stay informed and know where to go for the most current information. Sources of accurate information include the CDC, KDHE, and your local county health department.
- Maintain children's files including health assessments and current contact information.
- Update an emergency contact lists for families, staff and key resources and ensure the lists are accessible in key locations in your facility.
- Continue to monitor children and staff absences.
 - Understand the usual absenteeism patterns for your facility.
 - Alert your local health department about large increases in absenteeism due to respiratory illnesses.
- Plan ahead to ensure adequate supplies to support hand hygiene behaviors and routine cleaning of objects and surfaces. If you have difficulty obtaining these supplies, contact your local licensing surveyor and/or your local resource and referral agency.
- Communicate about COVID-19 with staff and families of children in care. Provide regular updates to policies/procedures.
- Intentionally and persistently combat stigma. Misinformation about coronavirus and COVID-19 can create fear and hostility that hurt people and make it difficult to keep everyone healthy. Take advantage of factual information to prevent, interrupt, and respond to stigma. More information is available here: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/reducing-stigma.html>.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR MAINTAINING A HEALTHY & SAFE ENVIRONMENT

Please review the CDC's [Guidance for Child Care Programs that Remain Open](#). The information found there and included below are not requirements from KDHE, rather recommendations for increasing health and safety.

Drop-off and Pick-Up

- Post signs outside the entrance restricting entry to anyone with symptoms of illness.
- Limit outside visitors. NOTE: This does not include the local licensing surveyor or necessary maintenance/repair worker. For those individuals, keep a log including date/time, name, and contact information (phone or email).
- Set up hand hygiene stations at the entrance so that individuals can clean their hands before entering. Keep hand sanitizer out of children's reach and supervise use.
- Pens shouldn't be shared. Ask parents/guardians to use their own pen when signing in or clean/disinfect between each use. If check-in is electronic, provide alcohol wipes and clean screens or keyboards between each use.
- Work with parents/guardians to stagger drop-off and pick-up times to avoid overcrowding of children and parents/guardians in a confined space. If possible, greet parents at the door or outside.
- Limit parents/guardians to one per child during drop-off and pick-up. Ideally, this should be the same individual each day. Consider recommending that parents/guardians who are health care workers identify someone else to do drop-off and pick-up, if possible.
- Parents/guardians who are self-quarantining due to close contact with a COVID-19 individual should not do drop-off or pick-up.

Screening

Screen children and staff daily before admittance for signs and symptoms of illness. Ask questions, observe for signs of illness, and check for fever. Additional information is available at [KDHE COVID-19 Resource Microsite](#) .

- Ask Questions
 - Has there been travel within the last 14 days in a state or country identified as a hot spot for COVID-19?
 - Has there been an exposure to someone diagnosed with COVID-19, either household or non-household contact?
 - Is the individual or anyone in the home showing signs of illness or who have the following:
 - fever greater than 100.4 degrees (F)

- cough
 - shortness of breath/difficulty breathing
 - sudden loss of smell or taste
 - other signs of illness (headache, sore throat, general aches/pains, fatigue/weakness/extreme exhaustion)
- Observe for signs of illness
 - New or worsening cough
 - shortness of breath/difficulty breathing
 - other signs of illness (tiredness/lethargy/weakness/extreme exhaustion, flushed cheeks, rash, runny nose, drainage from eyes)
- When taking temperatures, to the extent that you are able, do the following:
 - Perform hand hygiene.
 - Wear personal protective equipment (mask, eye protection, gown/coveralls and a single pair of disposable gloves).
 - Be sure to use a fresh pair of gloves for each individual and that the thermometer is thoroughly cleaned in between each check. If disposable or non-contact thermometers are used and the screener did not have physical contact with an individual, gloves do not need to be changed before each check. In non-contact thermometers are used, they should be cleaned routinely as recommended by the CDC for infection control.

Exclusion

- Individuals who have a fever or other signs of illness should not be admitted.
- Exclude individuals with history of COVID-19 exposure, including travel within the last 14 days in a state or country identified as a hot spot for COVID-19, and those showing signs of illness.
 - Children who are sick, with the typical reasons kids get sick (vomiting, rash, diarrhea, pink eye etc.) should be excluded in accordance with your policies.
 - Individuals should be fever free for at least 72 hours, without the use of fever-reducing medications (Tylenol® or Advil®) before returning.
 - Current information about when individuals who have been exposed to COVID-19 or individuals with symptoms consistent with COVID-19 should stay home is available on the [KDHE COVID-19 Resource Microsite](#) and on the [CDC COVID website](#).

COVID-19 Cases in the Facility

- Immediately notify the local health department and your local licensing surveyor if someone who is infected (child, staff or resident of family child care home) has been in the facility. The local health department will help determine a course of action for the facility.

- Follow the instructions of local public health officials to determine when children and staff who are well/not sick but are sharing a home with someone with a case of COVID-19 should return to the facility.
- Work with local public health officials to communicate about a possible COVID-19 exposure. Communication to parents of children in care and to staff members should align with the facility's emergency preparedness plan. When communicating information, it is critical to maintain the confidentiality of any ill child or staff member.
- Identify strategies to support families in continuing their child's learning in the event of facility closure.
- Understand that the length (duration), criteria, and public health objective of child care facility closures may be re-assessed and changed as the situation evolves. Licensees should follow the advice of KDHE and local public health officials.

Daily Routines (Updated)

- To the extent possible, maintain daily schedules/routines for children.
- Ensure frequent handwashing (<https://www.cdc.gov/handwashing/index.html>) and cough etiquette (coughing and sneezing into elbow).
- Meticulously follow diaper changing procedures.
- Care for children in small stable groups. Children should be kept in the same group with the same provider/staff every day. Ideally, this means groups of the same 10 or fewer children/staff, if/when possible.
- Facilities enrolling more than one group/unit are advised to maintain separate rooms for each group/unit. Adults, children, and staff assigned should try to remain in their designated rooms/units (avoid co-mingling or sharing space), including during drop-off/pick-up, indoor/outdoor activities, and meal times.
- Avoid over-crowded conditions. Encourage children to spread out during story and circle times.
- Rearrange the room to promote individual play and set up more individual play activity stations.
- Limit item sharing to those items that can be easily cleaned and disinfected at the end of the day or more frequently if needed.
- Playdough can't be cleaned or sanitized. Consider individual containers labeled with names or discontinue use.
- For now, don't use group sensory or water tables.
- Allow as much room as possible between cribs, cots, and sleep mats. At least six feet is recommended. Place cribs, cots, and sleep mats so that children rest "head to toe" rather than "face to face".
- Get plenty of fresh air. Children of all ages should have an opportunity for daily outdoor play, weather permitting. Indoor rooms should be well ventilated. To promote air circulation, open windows whenever weather permits or when children are out of the area.

- It is important to comfort crying, sad, and/or anxious young children and they often need to be held. To protect themselves, providers should consider:
 - Wearing an oversized, button-down, long sleeved shirt. Keep long hair up off the collar in a ponytail.
 - Washing their hands, neck, and anywhere touched by a child's secretions.
 - Changing the child's clothing if secretions are on the child's clothing. The provider should then change their button-down shirt, if there are secretions on it, and wash their hands again.
 - Placing contaminated clothes a plastic bag until washing it in a washing machine. Providers, like children in care, should have multiple changes of clothing on hand.
- Conversations about a child's day are encouraged to be done by phone with parents/guardians. Daily notes or progress reports are other recommended ways to support information sharing and social distancing.

Cleaning and Disinfecting (Updated)

- Intensify cleaning and disinfection routines. *Caring for Our Children, National Health and Safety Performance Standards* (<https://nrckids.org/CFOC>) has nationally recognized standards for cleaning, sanitizing, and disinfection.
- Clean and disinfect surfaces and objects that are frequently touched, especially toys and games. This includes cleaning objects/surfaces not ordinarily cleaned daily such as doorknobs, light switches, handrails, electronic devices, countertops, nap pads, desks, chairs, cubbies, and playground structures. Depending on the ages and numbers of children in care, this may mean cleaning surfaces several times throughout the day.
- Surfaces should be cleaned using detergent/soap and water before disinfecting.
- Use the cleaners typically used at your facility. The CDC has detailed information at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/clean-disinfect/index.html>. A list of EPA registered products is available at <https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-n-disinfectants-use-against-sars-cov-2>. When choosing products be sure to read the label and carefully follow directions.
- Cleaning products should not be used near children and staff should ensure that there is adequate ventilation when using products to prevent inhalation of toxic fumes.
- Pay special attention to cleaning and sanitizing toys.
 - Toys that can't be cleaned and sanitized should not be used.
 - Set aside toys children have placed in their mouths or otherwise contaminated with bodily fluids until they have been cleaned and sanitized.

- Machine washable toys should be used by one child at a time or should not be used at all. These toys should be laundered before being used by another child.
- Children’s books, like other paper-based materials such as mail or envelopes, are not considered high-risk for transmission and do not need additional cleaning or disinfection procedures.
- Stock sinks and restrooms with soap and paper towels.
- Place boxes of facial tissues and waste containers for used tissues throughout the child care area and in places readily accessible to children and staff.

MORE INFORMATION (Updated)

KDHE Resources

- [COVID-19 Resource Microsite](#)
- Information Line 1-866-534-3463 (1-866-KDHEINF) Monday – Friday 8 am to 5 pm

CDC Resources

- [Coronavirus Disease 2019 website](#)
- [Schools and Child Care Programs](#)
- [Guidance for Child Care Settings That Remain Open](#)
- [Use of Cloth Face Coverings to Prevent the Spread](#)
 - NOTE: Per the CDC guidance, cloth face coverings should not be placed on young children under age 2, anyone who has trouble breathing, or is unconscious, incapacitated or otherwise unable to remove the mask without assistance.
- [Health Alert Network: Update and Interim Guidance on Outbreak of Coronavirus Disease 2019](#)
- [Interim US Guidance for Risk Assessment and Public Health Management of Persons with Potential Coronavirus Disease 2019 Exposure in Travel-associated or Community Settings](#)
- [About Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\)](#)
- [What to Do If You Are Sick with COVID-19](#)
- [Interim Guidance for Persons Who May Have Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\) to Prevent Spread in Homes and Residential Communities](#)
- [Interim Guidance for Businesses and Employers to Plan and Respond to Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\), February 2020](#)
- [Coronavirus Disease 2019 Information for Travelers](#)
- [Prevent Getting Sick](#)
- [Communities, Schools, Workplaces, and Events](#)
- [What to Do If You Are Sick](#)
- [Information about COVID-19 If You Are Pregnant or Breastfeeding](#)
- [Guidance for People at Higher Risk for COVID-19](#)
- [Reducing Stigma and Promoting Resilience](#)

Other Federal Agency and Partner Resources

American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP)

- [Hand Washing: A Powerful Antidote to Illness](#)
- [Reducing the Spread of Illness in Child Care](#)
- [Germ Prevention Strategies](#)
- [When to Keep Your Child Home from Child Care](#)

National Resource Center for Health & Safety in Child Care and Early Education

- [Caring for Our Children: National Health & Safety Performance Standards for Early Care and Education Programs](#)

Child Care Aware of America

- [Coronavirus Hub for CCR &Rs and Child Care Providers](#)



ATTACHMENT A: OPTIONAL COVID-19 HEALTH SCREENING TOOL FOR LICENSED CHILD CARE FACILITIES

Screening children daily before admittance for signs and symptoms of illness and monitoring health throughout the day are important steps to reduce the spread of illness within a child care facility. This optional COVID-19 screening tool is intended to support existing policies a facility may have regarding managing illness, including inclusion/exclusion policies. Although intended for use with children, the tool may also be used to screen adult staff.

Important Reminders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If possible, set up a screening area near the entrance or outside the facility. Work with parents/guardians to stagger drop-off and pick-up times to avoid overcrowding of children and parents/guardians in a confined space. • Perform hand hygiene before and after each screening. To the extent possible, wear personal protective equipment (PPE) including a mask, eye protection, gown/coveralls and a single pair of disposable gloves.
How Do I Screen?	<p>Ask questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has there been travel within the last 14 days in a state or country identified as a hot spot for COVID-19? Yes/No • Has there been an exposure to someone diagnosed with COVID-19, either household or non-household contact? Yes/No • Is there anyone in the home showing signs of illness or who have the following symptoms of illness: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ fever greater than 100 degrees (F) Yes/No ○ cough Yes/No ○ shortness of breath/difficulty breathing Yes/No ○ sudden loss of smell or taste Yes/No ○ headache, sore throat, general aches/pains, fatigue/weakness/extreme exhaustion Yes/No <p>Observe:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New or worsening cough Yes/No • Shortness of breath/difficulty breathing Yes/No • Other signs of illness (tiredness/lethargy/weakness/extreme exhaustion, flushed cheeks rash, runny nose, eye drainage) Yes/No • Check temperature: Fever greater than 100 degrees (F) Yes/No
Exclusion	<p>Do not admit the child:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If the answer to one or more of the questions is Yes • If there is a fever • If other signs of illness are present <p>Advise parents to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follow the advice of their local health department concerning self-isolation or quarantine following travel to COVID-19 hot-spot or following an exposure to a confirmed COVID-19 case. • Contact their child’s health care provider if the child is sick or has symptoms consistent with COVID-19.
Find More Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contact your local health department or local child care facility surveyor for more information and guidance specific to your community. • Interim Guidance for Child Care Facilities and FAQs are available on the COVID-19 Resource Microsite (https://www.kdheks.gov/). • Isolation and Quarantine FAQs and other related information is on COVID-19 Resource Microsite (https://www.kdheks.gov/). • <i>Caring for Our Children, National Health and Safety Performance Standards</i> (https://nrckids.org/CFOC) has information related to managing illnesses, including inclusion/exclusion guidelines.