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Coronavirus Information for Child Care Facilities

State and federal government are monitoring and offering guidance

Health experts from the Nevada and federal governments want to provide information and guidance to licensed child care providers.

The Nevada Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) is actively monitoring the 2019 novel coronavirus (COVID-19) and working closely with state and local partners to protect the health and well-being of Nevadans. The department is following Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines, communicating with health organizations, and working with health authorities statewide to ensure everyone is informed of the most up-to-date guidance and ready to respond to this evolving situation.

Due to the rapidly evolving nature of the situation, information below is subject to change. DHHS will be updating information as frequently as possible. For the most current information, visit the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\) website for Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\)](#).

Background

The international community is experiencing an expanding outbreak of respiratory illness caused by a novel coronavirus (COVID-19). The virus is spreading from person-to-person, and cases have been detected in several countries, including the United States.

Currently, the immediate risk to the general public in Nevada is low.

Please remind your community that the risk of novel coronavirus is not connected with race, ethnicity, or nationality. Stigma will not help to fight this illness. Sharing accurate information during a time of heightened concern is one of the best things we can do to keep rumors and misinformation from spreading.

What are coronaviruses?

Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses. They usually cause mild respiratory illnesses, such as the common cold. Some coronaviruses have caused more severe illness, such as severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) and Middle East respiratory syndrome (MERS). COVID-19 is a new coronavirus that had not been seen in humans before December 2019.

How does the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) infection spread?

Experts believe the COVID-19 primarily spreads when an infected person coughs or sneezes. Droplets from a cough or sneeze can travel approximately six feet. Another person can become infected if



these droplets enter their mouth, nose, or eyes directly or through contaminated hands. An infected person who coughs or sneezes into their hands and touches surfaces such as phones, tables, door handles, or toys can contaminate them. While some coronaviruses can be spread to others through contaminated surfaces, coronaviruses generally do not survive on surfaces for a prolonged period of time. It takes 2 to 14 days after a person gets the virus in their body to become ill.

What can I do to prevent COVID-19 infections in my childcare facility?

Childcare facilities do **not** need to take special precautions beyond what is normally recommended to prevent the spread of germs. You can help children and staff reduce their risk for getting and spreading viral respiratory infections, including the flu and the common cold, by following the simple steps below.

- Wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Sing a song with the children while they are washing to help them do it for 20 seconds.
- Avoid touching eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid contact with people who are sick.
- Stay home while sick and avoid close contact with others.
- Cover mouth and nose with a tissue when coughing or sneezing, then throw the tissue in the trash and wash hands. If possible, cough or sneeze into your shirt sleeve and teach children to do this as well.

In addition, it is recommended that childcare facilities follow their regular cleaning and disinfection program.

- Disinfecting is the responsibility of childcare facility staff. They are trained to use disinfectants in a safe and effective manner and to clean up potentially infectious materials and body fluid spills – blood, vomit, feces, and urine. Contact your licensed childcare facility staff if students are ill and your classroom needs cleaning and disinfection.
- Each day, clean hard surfaces (desks, tables, countertops, sinks, toys) and clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces (door handles, faucets, railings), bathrooms, and rooms where child care services may be provided. Use alcohol wipes to clean keyboards, tablets, and other frequently used electronic devices.
- Clean surfaces with fragrance-free soap. Thorough cleaning with soap and water will remove most microorganisms.
- The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has released a [list of EPA-registered disinfectant products](#) that have qualified for use against SARS-CoV-2, the novel coronavirus that causes COVID-19. It is important to note that there may be additional disinfectants that meet the criteria for use; the EPA will continue to update its list with additional products as needed.



Who should seek medical evaluation for COVID-19?

Staff, volunteers, or guardians of children who are experiencing the symptoms below should contact their local health authority for instructions regarding a risk assessment and, if necessary, submitting for testing and/or treatment. Those experiencing symptoms should **not** show up at their primary care physician or hospital if it is not a medical necessary or have not been instructed to do so by their local health authority or physician.

- Ill with a fever, cough, or difficulty breathing **and** have traveled from an affected area in the past 14 days,
- OR
- Ill with fever, cough, or difficulty breathing **and** have been identified by a health care provider as a recent close contact of a confirmed COVID-19 case or had recent close contact with someone who is being evaluated for COVID-19 infection.

What should I do if I suspect a child, staff member, or volunteer is at risk for COVID-19?

If a child, staff member, or volunteer meets the above criteria, it is important to place them in a private room away from others and ask them to wear a facemask. Immediately notify your local health department, and they will provide you with guidance. In the case of children, immediately notify their parents/guardians/emergency family contacts.

How should I respond to reported or suspected cases of coronavirus?

Below, we have outlined four scenarios that should be considered by child care providers when determining, in partnership with local health departments and professionals, how best to respond to instances of COVID-19 in a child care facility.

Scenario I: Preventive measures already underway to prevent the spread of COVID-19

Child care facilities should already be taking the following steps:

- Encourage all children, families, and staff to take everyday preventive actions, including:
 - Wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
 - Avoid touching eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands.
 - Avoid contact with people who are sick.
 - Stay home while sick and avoid close contact with others.
 - Cover mouth and nose with a tissue when coughing or sneezing, then throw the tissue in the trash and wash hands. If possible, cough or sneeze into your shirt sleeve and teach children to do this as well.
- Every day, clean hard surfaces (desks, tables, countertops, sinks, toys) and clean and



disinfect frequently touched surfaces (door handles, faucets, railings), bathrooms, and rooms where child care services may be provided. Use alcohol wipes to clean keyboards, tablets, and other frequently used electronic devices.

- In addition to reviewing their existing Emergency Operations Plans, child care facilities are encouraged to continue working closely with local health districts to prepare and respond to emerging issues.
- If a child, staff member, or volunteer meets the above criteria, it is important to place them in a private room away from others and ask them to wear a facemask. Immediately notify your local health department, and they will provide you with guidance. In the case of students, immediately notify their parents/guardians/emergency family contacts.

In addition to existing guidance, consider the following actions:

- Coordinate with all partner organizations to ensure consistent practices.
- Encourage flu vaccine for individuals over 6 months of age who have not yet had it this season.
- Develop a plan to share accurate and timely information with the child care facility community, including providing regular updates through multiple means of communication.

Scenario II: Measures to be taken if there are two or more community transmission cases of COVID-19, but no individuals within the facility test positive

If local health officials have confirmed two or more community transmission cases but no children, staff, or volunteers at the school have tested positive for COVID-19, in addition to the items outlined in Scenario I above it is recommended that child care directors implement the following steps:

- Limit visitors to the facility by not allowing those with symptoms of fever and/or respiratory infection or who have a travel history over the course of the last 14 days to an area identified by the CDC as [Level 3 Travel Health Notice](#).
- Consider alternatives to group programming, including any large or communal activities.

Scenario III: Measures to be taken if one child, staff member, or volunteer tests positive for COVID-19 and exposed others at the school.

If a child care facility community member tests positive for COVID-19 and exposed others at the facility, it is recommended that child care providers implement the following steps:

- In consultation with the local public health department, the child care provider may consider if facility closure is warranted and for what length of time, based on the risk level within the specific community as determined by the local public health officer.
- In consultation with the local public health department, providers may determine readmission criteria after the facility closures.



- Implement communication plans for facility closure to include outreach to parents, teachers, staff, and the community, as it will also impact local employers.
- Provide guidance to parents/families and staff reminding them of the importance of community social distancing measures while facility is closed, including discouraging children or staff from gathering elsewhere. Community social distancing measures include canceling group activities or events.
- Consider developing a plan for continuity of essential business functions as well as continuity of subsidized nutrition programming.
- Maintain regular communications with the local public health department.
- Consult CDC guidelines (see [Environmental Cleaning and Disinfection Recommendations](#)) for facilities to determine what additional cleaning protocols, if any, should be deployed at the facility prior to reopening the facility.
- Determine the timing of return of students and staff, and any additional steps needed for the facility to reopen, in consultation with the local public health department.

Where can I turn for more information?

- [The CDC's Guidance for Administrators of US Childcare Programs and K-12 Schools](#)
- [Nevada's Response to the 2019 Novel Coronavirus](#)
- [2019 Novel Coronavirus, Wuhan, China \(CDC\)](#)
- [Guidance for Travelers \(CDC\)](#)

Public Health Agencies in Nevada:

- Nevada Division of Public and Behavioral Health
 - 24-hour phone: (775) 400-0333
 - <http://dpbh.nv.gov/>
- Carson City Health & Human Services
 - Business hours: (775) 887-2190
 - After hours: (775) 887-2190 opt.7
 - <https://gethealthycarsoncity.org/>
- Southern Nevada Health District
 - 24-hour phone: (702) 759-1300
 - <https://www.southernnevadahealthdistrict.org/>
- Washoe County Health District
 - 24-hour phone: (775) 328-2447
 - <https://washoecounty.us/health/>