

Tips for Parents Using Child Care During COVID-19

The Department of Children and Families (DCF) understands that certain families need continued child care during the COVID-19 pandemic. To ensure the safety of families and child care setting staff, DCF has developed a list of tips for parents to help reduce the spread of COVID-19.

Drop Off and Pick Up

Parents should limit pick up and drop off to one person to reduce the potential spread of COVID-19. Additionally, if you meet one of the below criteria you should not visit a child care center:

- Are older than 60 years old
- Are pregnant
- Have underlying health conditions, including those with compromised immune systems or respiratory conditions like severe asthma
- Are showing symptoms of COVID-19
- Have been in contact with someone confirmed or suspected of having COVID-19 in the last 14 days
- Have returned from travel to areas with community spread of COVID-19 in the last 14 days (updated information on travel restrictions can be found on the CDC website).



Upon entering the facility, parents and children should immediately wash or sanitize their hands before entering the classroom or signing their child in.

Some centers may establish a drop off zone or staggered drop off times. Parents should check with their center for any additional guidance.

Health Screenings

Some child care settings may implement a health screening at entry for both parents and children. This may include a temperature reading and symptom check. It is important that you answer questions honestly and ask for assistance if you do not understand the question or need it translated to another language.

Illnesses

Most child care centers have an illness policy in place; however, guidance may be more stringent to ensure the safety and wellness of children and program staff. Parents are encouraged to check with the provider on any new guidance and keep their children home who have a fever of 100.4 or higher; have had a fever of 100.4 or higher or other potential symptoms of COVID-19, such as shortness of breath or persistent dry cough, within the last 72 hours; or have come in contact with others who have COVID-19.

Contact Information

If your child becomes ill or there is a positive COVID-19 case in the facility, your center may ask that you pick he/she up within one hour. Review your enrollment information to ensure they have your current contact information as well as emergency contact information.

Alternate Care

If there is a case of COVID-19 among children or staff, programs may consider a short-term (less than 1 week) or long-term (two weeks or more) closure to allow for sufficient cleaning and disinfection. Parents are encouraged to find an alternate care option, such as another local child care center or relative, in case this occurs.

