Reopening Guidance for Childcare

- Prohibit any person except the following from accessing an operation: operation staff; persons with legal authority to enter, including law enforcement officers, state child care licensing staff, and Department of Human Services’ Family and Protective Services staff; professionals providing services to children; children enrolled at the operation; and parents or legal guardians who have children enrolled and present at the operation.

- Require pickup and drop-off of children outside of the operation, unless it’s determined that there is a need for the parent to enter an operation.

- Before allowing entry into the operation, screen all individuals listed above, including taking the temperature of each person upon arrival at the operation each day. Wear a mask while screening. Deny entry to any person who meets any of the following criteria:

  1. A temperature of 100.4°F or above.

  2. Signs or symptoms of a respiratory infection, such as a cough, shortness of breath, sore throat, and low-grade fever.

  3. In the previous 14 days has had contact with someone with a confirmed diagnosis of COVID-19; is under investigation for COVID-19; or is ill with a respiratory illness.

- Provide each child with individual meals and snacks. Do not serve family style meals.

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Recommended Guidelines for Temperature Checks & Employer Policies

Child care centers should consider use of a touchless infrared thermometer to check the temperature of employees each day. Employees with a temperature above 100.4°F are recommended to be sent home until they have no fever and no evidence of COVID-19 symptoms. The employee conducting checks should be wearing a mask. Employers should consider implementing flexible sick leave and supportive policies and practices for employees and consider needs of employees older than 65 years or in other vulnerable populations.

Consider use of a touchless infrared thermometer

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Cleaning and Disinfecting

• Routinely clean and disinfect surfaces and objects that are frequently touched. This may include cleaning objects/surfaces not ordinarily cleaned daily (e.g., doorknobs, light switches, classroom sink handles, countertops). Clean with the cleaners typically used. Use all cleaning products according to the directions on the label. For disinfection most common EPA-registered household disinfectants should be effective. A list of products that are EPA-approved for use against the virus that causes COVID-19 is available here. Follow the manufacturer’s instructions for all cleaning and disinfection products (e.g., concentration, application method and contact time, etc.).

• Provide EPA-registered disposable wipes to teachers and staff so that commonly used surfaces (e.g., keyboards, desks, remote controls) can be wiped down before use.

• Ensure handwashing strategies include washing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom; before eating; and after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing. If soap and water are not available and hands are not visibly dirty, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.

Cleaning and Disinfection After Persons Suspected/Confirmed to Have COVID-19 Have Been in the Facility

At a school or daycare center that does not house people overnight:

• Close off areas visited by the ill persons. Open outside doors and windows and use ventilating fans to increase air circulation in the area. Wait 24 hours or as long as practical before beginning cleaning and disinfection.

• Cleaning staff should clean and disinfect all areas such as offices, bathrooms, common areas, shared electronic equipment (like tablets, touch screens, keyboards, remote controls, and ATM machines) used by the ill persons, focusing especially on frequently touched surfaces.

Please check with your local municipality for additional guidance or requirements for reopening.