



DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

OFFICE OF THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF

EDUCATION

Guidance for Child Care Providers and Families Related to Coronavirus (COVID-19)

(Updated Saturday, March 21, 2020)

As the coronavirus (COVID-19) situation continues to rapidly evolve, the Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE) is sharing the most recent recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) on avoiding gatherings of 10 or more people and guidance from the DC Department of Health (DC Health) on what those recommendations mean for child care facilities.

For more information on the District of Columbia Government's response to coronavirus (COVID-19), please visit coronavirus.dc.gov.

CDC GUIDANCE ON SOCIAL DISTANCING AND GATHERINGS

On Monday, March 16, the [CDC issued guidance](#) to avoid gatherings of more than 10 people for at least the next 15 days. Ways you can ensure appropriate social distancing at your facility include:

- No more than 10 individuals (staff and children) clustered in any given activity;
- Maximize spacing between individuals in a classroom, including while at tables and in group and individual activities;
- No large group activities and activities requiring children to sit or stand in close proximity, e.g., circle time;
- Minimizing classroom mixing on the playground, in the cafeteria and other shared spaces;
- Staggering drop-off and pick-up times;
- Restricting field trips; and
- Restricting all outside volunteers or visitors, except adults approved to pick up or drop off enrolled children.

DC HEALTH RECOMMENDATIONS

DC Health recommends that all children and staff be screened each day for the presence of respiratory symptoms or fever upon entry into the facility. Any child or staff member with a history of respiratory symptoms or a fever of 100.4 degrees or higher shall not be admitted, and families shall be instructed to call the child's health care provider – or staff to call their health care provider – to determine next steps.

Early childhood providers should instruct families to:

- Keep their child home if the child or any member of the household has a fever of 100.4 degrees or higher, cough, runny nose, or other signs of illness. The child must remain home

until 72 hours after the fever and symptoms have resolved, without the use of fever-reducing medication;

- Avoid people who are sick (coughing, sneezing, fever).

Early childhood providers should instruct staff to:

- Stay home if they or any member of their household has a fever of 100.4 degrees or higher, cough, runny nose, or other signs of illness. The staff member must remain home until 72 hours after the fever and symptoms have resolved, without the use of fever-reducing medication;
- Avoid people who are sick (coughing, sneezing, fever).
- All child care providers should continue to follow [District guidance on cleaning and disinfecting](#).

POTENTIAL EXPOSURE AND COVID-19 REPORTING

If you believe your facility has been exposed to coronavirus (COVID-19), the facility should follow the existing procedures for filing an Unusual Incident Report. Child care providers who believe their community may have been directly exposed and are seeking guidance on the potential need for closure should also contact the Office of the Deputy Mayor for Education (DME) at (202) 727-5707 or DME.DismissalAdvice@dc.gov.

When contacting the DME, providers will be asked to share the following information:

- Name, location of your child care facility, and direct contact information
- Details about the circumstances involving potential or confirmed exposure – who, contact with infected person/people and exposure to your facility
- What communications you have shared with your community to date

In the event you decide to close your facility, please remember to submit an [Unusual Incident Report](#) to osse.childcarecomplaints@dc.gov or your designated licensing specialist. We are grateful for your ongoing patience, flexibility and cooperation as we manage the dynamic nature of this event. As we approach the next few weeks, we ask for continued patience and trust as the District navigates this unique situation.

QUESTIONS?

If you have questions relating to this guidance please contact Eva Laguerre, Interim Assistant Superintendent of Early Learning and Director, Licensing & Compliance, Division of Early Learning, Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE) at (202) 741-5942 or Eva.Laguerre@dc.gov.

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