

COVID-19: Guidance for Childcare Providers from the Wyoming Department of Health

May 15, 2020

Background

On May 13th, Wyoming's State Health Officer issued new public health orders related to the COVID-19 virus. These new orders will take effect on May 15th. In addition to other changes and exceptions in the new orders, childcare providers in Wyoming will be allowed to continue operating and serve additional children, with certain restrictions and recommendations in place. Questions regarding enforcement and interpretation of orders can be directed to your County Public Health Office.

A copy of the current statewide orders can be found at here: <https://covid19.wyo.gov/>

General Guidance

The Wyoming Department of Health recommends the following guidelines to childcare providers who provide service during the COVID-19 outbreak:

1. Children should be kept in small groups, **with 25 people (children and providers) or less** in a single room or play area, and in accordance with all rules governing child-to-provider ratios. There should be no large group activities. Appropriate social distancing should be practiced as much as possible for all staff and children.
2. Childcare providers should implement enhanced sanitation and hygiene, including washing hands upon arrival and frequently throughout the day with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. When soap and water is not available, use alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol volume. **Use of hand sanitizer for children should be closely supervised to avoid ingestion.**
3. Childcare providers should engage in frequent and thorough cleaning at least twice daily of high touch surfaces (e.g. doorknobs, light switches, toilet handles, sink handles, countertops), following best practices and all applicable regulations. Specific surfaces and areas that are used and touched often should be cleaned and sanitized after each use (e.g. shared toys, keyboards, desks, remote controls).
4. Childcare providers should ensure that staff and children are screened for symptoms of COVID-19 at the beginning of the day upon arrival. Symptomatic individuals should not be allowed to enter the facility.
5. Childcare facility staff should be monitored for symptoms, including fever, cough, and shortness of breath. **Staff who have these symptoms or report feeling sick should stay home.**
6. Parents and guardians should be instructed and required to keep children home if they are exhibiting any symptoms of fever, cough, or shortness of breath. **If a childcare provider observes symptoms in a child, the child should be sent home.**
7. The childcare provider should ensure that enrolled children are met at the entrance and that parents, or other individuals dropping off or picking up children, do not enter the facility, unless absolutely necessary.
8. Childcare providers should restrict visitors. No outside visitors or volunteers should be permitted on premises with the exception of staff that are essential to operations and any contracted providers who provide special education services.
9. Staff and children should wear face coverings to the greatest extent practicable. Face coverings should not be placed on children under the age of 2 years.
10. Field trips are not recommended.
11. Signs should be posted instructing and educating staff on routine measures for hygiene and mitigation of respiratory illness spread. The CDC has numerous print and signage resources that can be accessed [here](#).

For more information about the COVID-19 outbreak please visit: health.wyo.gov or cdc.gov

