

# CHILD CARE PROGRAMS DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC



The purpose of this tool is to assist directors and administrators in making (re)opening decisions regarding child care programs during the COVID-19 pandemic. It is important to check with state and local health officials and other partners to determine the most appropriate actions while adjusting to meet the unique needs and circumstances of the local community. Child care programs is a term that refers to both child care centers and family child care.

## Should you consider opening?

- ✓ Will reopening be consistent with applicable state and local orders?
- ✓ Are you ready to protect children and employees at [higher risk](#) for severe illness?
- ✓ Are you able to screen children and employees upon arrival for symptoms and history of exposure?

ALL YES



## Are recommended health and safety actions in place?

- ✓ Promote [healthy hygiene practices](#) such as [hand washing](#) and [employees wearing a cloth face covering](#), as feasible
- ✓ Intensify [cleaning, sanitization, disinfection](#), and ventilation
- ✓ Encourage [social distancing](#) through increased spacing, small groups and limited mixing between groups, if feasible. For family child care, monitor distance between children not playing together and maintain distance between children during nap time
- ✓ Adjust activities and procedures to limit sharing of items such as toys, belongings, supplies, and equipment
- ✓ Train all employees on health and safety protocols

ALL YES



## Is ongoing monitoring in place?

- ✓ Develop and implement procedures to check for [signs and symptoms](#) of children and employees daily upon arrival, as feasible
- ✓ If feasible, implement enhanced screening for children and employees who have recently been present in areas of high transmission, including temperature checks and symptom monitoring
- ✓ Encourage anyone who is sick to [stay home](#)
- ✓ Plan for if children or employees get sick
- ✓ Regularly communicate and monitor developments with local authorities, employees, and families regarding cases, exposures, and updates to policies and procedures.
- ✓ Monitor child and employee absences and have a pool of trained substitutes and flexible leave policies and practices. For family child care, if feasible, have a plan for a substitute caregiver if provider or a family member in the home gets sick
- ✓ Be ready to consult with the local health authorities if there are cases in the facility or an increase in cases in the local area

ALL YES



OPEN AND MONITOR

ANY NO



DO NOT OPEN

ANY NO



MEET SAFEGUARDS FIRST

ANY NO



MEET SAFEGUARDS FIRST

