

Checklist for Choosing or Returning to Child Care During the COVID-19 Pandemic



Deciding when to bring your child back to their child care program, or which child care program to choose, is a personal choice for your family. Use this guide to help make decisions or ask questions as you evaluate child care facilities. For additional considerations, see our **Checklist for Choosing Quality Child Care** at www.childcareresources.org/families/finding-child-care.

Facility

- Is information posted about ways to reduce the spread of the virus (avoiding people who are ill, covering cough, frequent handwashing)?
- Is hand sanitizer or a washing station available upon entry?

Social Distancing

- Are children in groups of 10 or less (including teachers)?
- Are siblings in the same group?
- Are there strategies for social distancing throughout the day?
- Are there additional precautions for when social distancing is not possible (adults wearing masks, staggered meals/outside times, no family-style meals, etc.)?

Sanitation

- Are there procedures for cleaning and sanitizing toys and materials?
- Are there procedures for cleaning and sanitizing heavily touched/trafficked areas?
- How frequently does cleaning and sanitizing occur?
- Have staff been trained on additional measures to protect from disease transmission?



Illness & Absences

- What is the screening process at drop-off?
- How often are children screened during the day?
- What is the procedure if a child becomes ill during the day?
 - What is the policy for tuition payment if a child is sent home with an illness?
 - When can a child return?
- What happens if someone in the program, or a family member, tests positive for COVID-19?
 - How long would the program be closed?
 - How would the program mitigate risk during the closure?
 - What is the tuition structure for any closure period due to possible exposure?
- Is there a written policy for COVID-19 related mitigation and illness?

The CDC has extensive guidance for child care programs to help limit the risk of spreading COVID-19 including sanitation measures, illness screening and response, and more. For more information visit: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/guidance-for-childcare.html>

We're Here to Help You Find Safe, Quality Child Care

Contact us for help finding or paying for child care.

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