

Reopening your Child Care Program

Guidance from IdahoSTARS

Frequently Asked Questions

Are we limited to 10 children in our program at this time?

- No, you may have the number of children you are licensed for as long as you are within ratio.

How can I practice “social distancing” in childcare?

- If possible, childcare classes should include the same group each day, and the same childcare providers should remain with the same group each day. Consider staggering arrival and drop off times and/or come outside the facility to pick up the children as they arrive. Your plan for curb side drop off and pick up should limit direct contact between parents and staff members and adhere to social distancing recommendations. Limit the mixing of children, such as staggering playground times and keeping groups separate for special activities such as art, music, and exercising. If possible, at nap time, ensure that children’s naptime mats (or cribs) are spaced out as much as possible, ideally 6 feet apart. Consider placing children head to toe in order to further reduce the potential for viral spread.

How do I perform “health checks” when children arrive?

- If possible, stand behind a physical barrier, such as a glass or plastic window or partition that can serve to protect the staff member’s face and mucous membranes from respiratory droplets that may be produced if the child being screened sneezes, coughs, or talks. Make a visual inspection of the child for signs of illness which could include flushed cheeks, rapid breathing or difficulty breathing (without recent physical activity), fatigue, or extreme fussiness. You do not need to wear personal protective equipment (PPE) if you can maintain a distance of 6 feet. Conduct temperature screening using disposable gloves. If performing a temperature check on multiple individuals, ensure that you use a clean pair of gloves for each child and that the thermometer has been thoroughly cleaned in between each check. Ensure proper handwashing procedure by washing your hands with soap and water for 20 seconds.

Should children wear masks?

- Face covering should not be placed on children. Staff should wear masks or face coverings unless they need to be removed to address children’s fears.

Should we continue with family style dining?

- Not at this time. If meals are typically served family-style, plate each child’s meal to serve it so that multiple children are not using the same serving utensils.

I know handwashing is extremely important but what does that really mean for us in childcare?

- All children, teachers and volunteers should wash hands upon arrival, after breaks, before and after preparing food, eating, administering medication or ointment and diapering, after using the toilet, assisting with toileting, coming in contact with bodily fluid, holding animals or cleaning up animal waste, playing outdoors or in the sand and after handling garbage. Wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds and assist children with handwashing. Place posters describing handwashing near sinks.

What if I reopen and someone (a child/family member/staff) tests positive?

- You should have a written contingency plan in place, just as before, addressing cleaning and disinfecting and how to determine if or when you may need to close again.

Checklist for Program Reopening Considerations

- Does your childcare program have an adequate number of trained staff?
- Does your childcare program have adequate space to spread out to meet physical distancing requirements?
- Has an initial deep cleaning and disinfecting of the facility been done?
- Do you have a checklist for regular cleaning and sanitizing?
- Do you have a written contingency plan?
- Do you have a plan for communicating with families?
- Do you have a plan for how you will practice “social distancing”?
- Do you have a plan for drop off and pick up that you have communicated with families?
- What will you do if a child becomes ill while in your care?

Additional Resources

<https://rebound.idaho.gov/>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/disinfecting-building-facility.html>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/guidance-for-childcare.html>

<https://nrckids.org/CFOC>

<https://idahooutofschool.org/>

<https://www.who.int/>

