

COVID-19 Health & Safety Guidance for Childcare and Summer Programs

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Important note:

The COVID-19 situation continues to evolve very rapidly – so the information we are providing today may change quickly

Health Guidance for Childcare Programs, Summer Programs and Afterschool Programs (Revised May 13, 2020)

:: Effective June 1, 2020 ::

For childcare, summer and afterschool programs that are open during the COVID-19 pandemic, it is crucial to minimize the risks of spreading the coronavirus. The following guidance is designed to maintain health and safety standards requirements and physical distancing directives while providing much-needed services.

Exclude children, staff, parents and guardians from sites if they are showing symptoms of COVID-19, have been in contact with someone with COVID-19 in the last 14 days, have been tested and are awaiting results, or are at high risk due to underlying health conditions.

NEW

Each person providing care for children in childcare, afterschool, and summer programs should thoroughly review this guidance, and complete mandatory COVID-19 training provided by [VOSHHA](#).

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Updated Guidance: Health Guidance for Childcare Programs, Summer programs and Afterschool programs

:: Effective June 1 ::

Health Guidance: HEALTH SCREENING

Conduct a Daily Health Check for the **child(ren) attending childcare**, and your **staff**:

1. Have they been in close contact with a person who has COVID-19?
2. Have they felt unwell with respiratory symptoms in the last few days? Do they feel unwell with any symptoms consistent with COVID-19 ? *For example, have they had a cough, high temperature, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, chills, repeated shaking with chills, muscle pain, headache, sore throat, or new loss of taste or smell?*



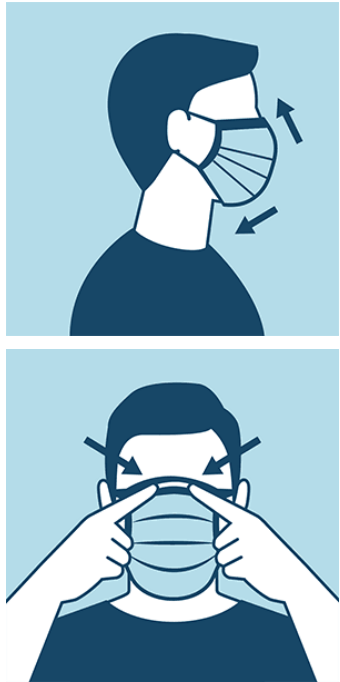
New

Temperature check protocol: Health screening should occur upon entrance and near sink.

- Perform hand hygiene
- Put on a cloth facial masks or coverings, eye protection, and a single pair of disposable gloves
- Check individual's temperature
- If performing a temperature check on multiple individuals, ensure that a clean pair of gloves is used for each individual and that the thermometer has been thoroughly cleaned in between each check. If disposable or non-contact thermometers are used and the screener did not have physical contact with an individual, gloves do not need to be changed before the next check. If non-contact thermometers are used, they should be cleaned routinely
- Remove and discard gloves in between children

Health Guidance: CLOTH FACE COVERINGS

It is recommended that **all staff wear cloth face coverings while providing care.**

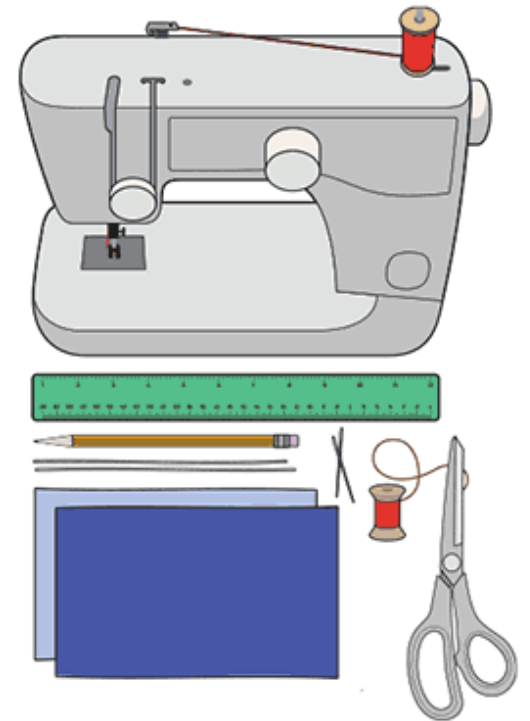


Cloth face coverings should—

- Fit snugly but comfortably against the side of the face
- Be secured with ties or ear loops
- Include multiple layers of fabric
- Allow for breathing without restriction
- Be able to be laundered and machine dried without damage or change to shape

Use of Cloth Face Coverings to Help Slow the Spread of COVID-19

[cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/diy-cloth-face-coverings.html](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/diy-cloth-face-coverings.html)



Providers and staff may take off their facial covering in very select instances, such as when a parent/caregiver is hearing impaired and reads lips in order to communicate.

Health Guidance: Cloth Facial Coverings for Children

Cloth facial coverings and children: **recommended not required**



No cloth facial coverings for children under 2-years-old

No cloth facial coverings while sleeping, eating or swimming

Help children to understand the importance of wearing cloth facial coverings to prevent the spread of germs

Cloth facial coverings are developmentally appropriate for children when they can properly put on, take off, and not touch or suck on the coverage

Cloth facial coverings can be removed during outdoor activities where children and staff can maintain physical distancing and have ready access to put them back as needed when activity stops

Children who have a medical reason for not wearing a cloth facial covering must not be required to wear one

Health Guidance: CHILDCARE PROVIDERS

The following individuals **should not provide childcare:**

- Adults 65 years of age and older
- People who have serious underlying medical conditions:
 - Heart disease
 - Diabetes
 - Lung disease
 - Underlying immune disorders/compromised immune systems/ taking immune suppressant medications
 - Pregnant individuals
 - People with HIV

Health Department and Child Development Division are considering a case by case exemption approach

For home-based childcare:
If a household member has any of the conditions described above, **providers should ensure social distancing** (a minimum of 6 feet) between the childcare children and the household member, ideally the household member would remain in rooms separate from the children. Cleaning/ disinfecting guidance should also be followed

Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome in Children (MIS-C) Associated with Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

- An extremely rare syndrome both worldwide and, in the U.S.
- We are also fortunate that most children with this syndrome have responded well to supportive treatment.
- The CDC recently set a case definition for this syndrome allowing it to be tracked worldwide in a standardized way.
- Pediatricians would also appreciate assistance from the ECE community in reminding parents to call their children's health care professionals with **any concerns** regarding illness, and also to be sure to keep up with the well child care that is critical to protecting young children from other diseases, such as those preventable by routine childhood vaccines.
- Vermont has not had any cases but is ready to put the pieces together if there is a child with these symptoms.

Health Questions Resource for Childcare Services

The Department of Health has **public health nurses available to childcare, afterschool, and summer programs** to answer health related childcare questions

8:00 AM to 3:00 PM Monday through Friday

Call: **802-863-7240**, select the option for “**Childcare Services**”

After hours there will be a childcare question mailbox to leave a message and VDH staff will return your call the following business days.



Thank you!

Let's stay in touch.

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