

Day care and child care recommendations

Child care and day care staying open during COVID19 as an essential service

To keep staff and children safe, make sure to stay 6 feet apart and practice excellent hand hygiene. If staff or children are sick, they should stay home. Post the signs and symptoms of COVID-19: fever, cough, shortness of breath. Create an emergency plan for a possible outbreak.

Create and follow an arrival procedure

Create and follow a screening procedure. Either:

Ask parents to check the child's temperature and symptoms at home and have the parent fill out a form that they give to staff when they arrive,

or

Do the screening when the child arrives.

Any child reporting any symptoms should not be allowed to enter the building and should return home. Children that are staying should wash their hands immediately. They should not have contact with other children, staff or instructors before washing their hands.

Wearing cloth face covers

Staff are encouraged to wear cloth face covers while working as much as possible.

- Create your own mask following [CDC guidance](#), and make sure to wash your hands before putting on or taking off the cloth face cover and after touching it.
- The cloth face cover should be washed after each use.

Wearing cloth face covers **does not replace** the recommendations for staying 6 feet apart, washing hands, not touching your face, and cleaning and disinfecting toys and other frequently touched surfaces.

It is not recommended that children attending day care wear cloth covers unless the child care provider determines that the child can keep it the cover on, remove it unassisted if necessary, and not handle it throughout the day. Cloth face coverings should not be placed on children under age 2.

Maintaining a 6-foot distance

Children should be in groups of no more than 10 children, and each person should stay 6 feet away from others at all times. Meal times or outdoor time should be staggered to allow for 6 feet between individuals.

If someone is sick during the day

If children or staff become sick have them stay in a specific area and wear a cloth face cover if available. Open outside doors and windows to increase air circulation. Wait as long as practical before cleaning and disinfecting the area. If possible, wait 24 hours.

Cleaning and disinfection

- If surfaces are dirty, they should be cleaned with soap and water before being disinfected. Toys and other frequently touched surfaces should be cleaned frequently.
- For disinfection, use a bleach solution of one-third cup of bleach to one gallon of water. Or, consult the alternate disinfection guide by the Minneapolis Health Department.
- Don't shake laundry. Wash items as appropriate according to the manufacturer's instructions using the warmest water possible. Dry items completely. Dirty laundry that has been in contact with an ill person can be washed with other people's items.

Protective equipment and hand hygiene

- Cleaning staff should wear disposable gloves for all tasks in the cleaning process (when available), including handling trash. Clean hands after removing gloves.
- Staff and children should clean their hands often by washing their hands with soap and water for 20 seconds. Additional key times to clean hands include:
 - After blowing one's nose, coughing or sneezing.
 - After using the restroom.
 - Before eating or preparing food.
 - Before and after providing routine care for children.

Stay in touch with current recommendations

- For more information about the City's response to COVID-19, visit [minneapolismn.gov/coronavirus](https://www.minneapolismn.gov/coronavirus). This webpage is updated frequently with new information.
- For health questions, please email COVID19@minneapolismn.gov or call 612-673-2301.
- For guidance from the Minnesota Department of Health, visit <https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/schools.html>.
- For the CDC interim guidance based on what is currently known about the transmission and severity of coronavirus disease 2019, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/guidance-for-schools.html>.