COVID-19 Prevention and Control in Childcare

Barry-Eaton District Health Department
Speakers

Sarah Surna, Community Health Promotion Specialist
Anne Barna, Planning, Promotion, & Evaluation Director
Jackie Anderson, Clinic Supervisor
Racheal Clark, Clinic Assistant
What is COVID-19?

COVID-19 is a type of coronavirus that was discovered in 2019. Currently there is a worldwide pandemic (big outbreak) of COVID-19. COVID-19 is contagious (spreads from person to person) and can be spread when someone who is ill speaks, breathes, coughs, or sneezes. COVID-19 can also live on surfaces as well and spread when someone who is not ill touches the surface and gets the virus in their body.

COVID-19 can be deadly so acting to reduce your risk of spreading disease in childcares is very important.
Overview of LARA guidelines and CDC recommendations
Sharing of BEDHD and other resources
Question and Answer
Required Actions

Develop and implement a COVID-19 Preparedness and Response Plan

• How you will monitor symptoms of COVID-19
• How your programs will practice social distancing
• How you will ensure hygiene
• How you will use safety equipment like PPE
• How families should report symptoms/positive tests and policies on when children should be excluded from care
• Isolation procedures in case of symptoms or confirmed cases onsite
• How to maintain staff:child ratios in the event that staff member(s) become ill
Prepare Your Physical Space

Identify a location to isolate individuals who become sick during the day

Remove toys that can’t be cleaned easily
- Wooden toys are not ideal unless they can be sanitized frequently
- Cloth toys are not recommended
- Toys that have been put in someone’s mouth should be placed aside until they can be cleaned and sanitized
- Limit toys brought from home

To clean and disinfect toys:
- Wear disposable gloves
- Clean surfaces with soap and water, and follow up with a disinfectant
  - [https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-n-disinfectants-use-against-sars-cov-2-covid-19](https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-n-disinfectants-use-against-sars-cov-2-covid-19)
- Follow the label
- Use adequate ventilation
- Don’t use more disinfectant than necessary
- Avoid mixing chemical products
- Label diluted cleaning solutions
- Store and use chemicals out of the reach of children
Prepare Your Physical Space

• Limit or eliminate common spaces, separating large areas with portable dividers if necessary
• Rearrange seating to be six feet apart when possible, especially at meal times
• Use touchless trash cans
• Ensure proper ventilation in the facility
• Ensure water is safe if you have been closed for a 'prolonged period
• Maintain consistent groups of children whenever possible
• Have a designated place to isolate someone who becomes ill in the facility and cannot leave immediately
Practical Prevention Strategies

- Maintain the same groups of adults and children with limited interaction between groups
- Bedding used during nap time should be stored in separate cubbies and kept with the same child. Bedding that touches skin should be cleaned weekly or before it is used by another child
- Assess drop off and pickup times
  - Have hand hygiene stations available near the entrance for children and parents
  - Stagger pick up and drop off times
  - If able, provide disposable shoe covers for parents and visitors
  - Limit people dropping off or picking up a child to one adult and limit non-essential visitors
  - Ask parents to avoid congregating in a single space or large group
- Limit non-essential travel. If travel is necessary, modify the trip by:
  - Taking temperatures as staff and children enter the vehicle
  - Wear cloth face coverings inside the vehicle
  - If re-boarding the vehicle, have everyone sit in the same seat each time
- Reinforce regular handwashing, with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Place handwashing signs by sinks.
PPE Guidance

Masks and Face Coverings

• Masks are not for the protection of the wearer but for those around them. Facilities should:
  • Establish a policy for when coverings should be worn for staff and children
  • Provide coverings to staff
  • Attend to children’s social and emotional health regarding seeing caregivers in masks
  • Children under age 2 or children with breathing conditions should never wear masks
  • Children can wear masks if they are able to put them on and remove them without assistance

Gloves

• Gloves should be worn consistent with existing licensing rules (e.g. when holding contaminants, changing diapers, cleaning, serving food).

• If using a touch thermometer when screening children, wear a new pair of gloves for each child

• Staff should wash hands before putting gloves on and after gloves are removed

• Not recommended for broader use
Monitor COVID-19 Symptoms

Children

• Inform families in advance about your new symptom screening and exclusion procedures.

• Fever (greater than 100.4 degrees F) is the key indicator for children but other symptoms like cough and diarrhea are also suggestive of COVID-19

• When children arrive:
  • Check the child’s temperature using a no-touch thermometer or thorough cleaning between uses
  • Ask parents if the child has been in close contact with a person with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 (this child should be in quarantine)
  • Ask if child has felt unwell in the past 3 days
  • Visibly check child for signs of illness

• Continue to monitor children for illness throughout the day

• Children with fever or fever with cough/diarrhea should be isolated from the group and picked up promptly by their parents. Parents should contact their doctor.
Monitor COVID-19 Symptoms

Staff

• Check staff temperature for fever (above 100.4 degrees). If fever is present, staff should not work.

• Screen for fever, chills, cough, shortness of breath/difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion/runny nose, nausea/vomiting, and diarrhea.

• Staff should report contact with anyone outside of work with a likely or confirmed case of COVID-19. These staff should be in quarantine and should not be at work.
Respond to COVID-19

1. Send home any symptomatic individuals immediately
2. Isolate people who become ill but can’t leave immediately. Encourage staff/families to follow up with for COVID-19 testing.
3. Report any exposures to your licensing consultant and to Barry-Eaton District Health Department.
4. If COVID-19 has been present in the facility, contact parents of affected children. Do not share health information about a specific person.
5. If COVID-19 has been present in the facility, clean and disinfect all areas used by the ill individual. If possible, wait 24 hours to allow any respiratory droplets to settle.
6. Determine whether to close the classroom/facility based on guidance from Barry-Eaton District Health Department.
7. Participate in follow-up measures, such as contact tracing.
Return to Care and Work

• Children should be fever free for 72 hours before returning to care, even if other symptoms are not present.

• If a staff member or child has multiple symptoms of COVID-19, has a possible exposure to COVID-19, or has tested positive, the individual MUST stay home until they:
  • Have been fever free for at least 72 hours without the use of fever-reducing medicine, AND
  • Other symptoms have improved, AND
  • At least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared
Useful Resources

barreyatnhealth.org/coronavirusworkplace

• Handout for Parents

• If/Then Guidance Summary

https://www.michigan.gov/lara/0,4601,7-154-89334_63294_5529---,00.html


michigan.gov/coronavirus
Childcare and COVID-19: For Parents

Of course your main focus is to keep your own kids safe. But during COVID-19, you have an important role to play to make sure that your childcare is safe and open for use for all that attend—and to your childcare provider it is a challenge to run their business. Parents and childcare providers must work as a team to keep the childcare operating. Here is how you can help spread the spread of COVID-19 from your childcare to keep your kids home when they are sick.

- Keep your child home if they have a fever, fever is the main common symptom of COVID-19 in children.
- Have the same person in your household pick up and drop off your child each day.
- If someone in your household has COVID-19 or is awaiting testing or results, don’t take your child to childcare.
- Use toys that can be easily cleaned and disinfected, such as plastic. Comfort items may need to stay at the facility.
- If your child is over the age of 2 and can wear a face mask, make sure they can put it on and remove it without help.
- If your child is at high risk for complications from COVID-19, talk to your doctor before leaving your child at childcare.

COVID-19 Guidance for Childcare Providers

To keep children safe at your facility, LAAHH has released specific guidelines for when you need to make decisions about safety due to COVID-19. These guidelines can be found on their website and some of the main critical points are summarized below. If these guidelines do not answer your question, please call Barry Eaton District Health Department at 269-789-4126.

The way you do things

Your children

IF:
- Your facility is closed temporarily due to a COVID-19-related event.
- Your facility is closed temporarily due to a COVID-19-related event.
THEN:
- Make the COVID-19 closure public knowledge.
- Review the facility’s COVID-19 preparedness plan with all staff.
- Communicate with the parent of children who are enrolled in the facility.

Your staff

IF:
- Your facility is closed temporarily due to a COVID-19-related event.
- Your facility is closed temporarily due to a COVID-19-related event.
THEN:
- Send the site’s COVID-19 Preparedness Plan and site-specific staff and parent/guardian information.
- Send the site’s COVID-19 Preparedness Plan and site-specific staff and parent/guardian information.

Barry Eaton District Health Department
Questions?
RACHEAL CLARK: (269) 798-4125 • rclark@bedhd.org