

DELAWARE INSTITUTE FOR
Excellence in
Early Childhood



Delaware
Department of Education



RE-OPENING DELAWARE CHILD CARE SAFELY

*A BLUEPRINT FOR SUPPORTING OUR EARLY
CHILDHOOD PROFESSIONALS DURING
COVID-19*

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Panel Members:

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THANK YOU TO DELAWARE'S CHILD CARE PROFESSIONALS!



WEBINAR OBJECTIVES

- Explain the purpose of the blueprint document.
- Describe recommendations set forth by governing bodies and available resources.
- Identify how to use the blueprint tool to implement safe practices that comply with government regulations.

THE PURPOSE OF THE BLUEPRINT

Support Our Early Child Professionals during COVID-19



DOCUMENT OBJECTIVES

- Keep you informed regarding Office of Child Care Licensing (OCCL) regulations related to COVID-19, as well as additional recommended practices to consider to keep you, your staff, the children, and our communities as safe as possible.
- Direct you through thoughtful considerations for continuing to operate as potentially more children and staff return or as you are preparing to re-open your program.
- Guide you through resources available to all programs and early childhood professionals.

WHAT IS PHASE 2?

- All licensed child care programs are allowed to reopen as of 6/15/2020.
- Must follow Delacare and additional health and safety regulations from OCCL and DPH.
- Childcare may be provided to all families who need (not just essential personnel).



BLUEPRINT ORGANIZATION

What questions will this answer?



CONTENTS

- How does the State of Emergency influence child care in Delaware?
- What financial resources are available to child care programs in Delaware?
- Who can I provide care for?
- How should I change my operating procedures?
- What should I do if someone in my program gets sick?

- APPENDIX: How can I support the social and emotional needs of everyone in my program?
- APPENDIX: How can I make sure my program is ready?

Changes in operating procedures

Revised group size,
ratio
requirements, and
staffing

Minimizing risk at
drop off and pick
up times

Guidelines for
cleaning and
disinfecting

Handwashing

Diapering and
Toileting

Minimize Risk
While Caring for
Children

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES (APPENDIX)

Supporting social and emotional needs

Supporting Early
Childhood
Professionals

Talking with
Children about
COVID-19

Program readiness

Preparedness
and Planning

Arrival/Drop-
off and
Screening

Stable Groups
and Social
Distancing

Sanitation and
Cleaning
Practices

USING THE BLUEPRINT

Support Our Early Child Professionals during COVID-19



PRESENTATION OF HEALTH AND SAFETY PRACTICES



REQUIRED

Specific practices required by OCCL and DPH

Mandated for all Delaware child care programs open and serving children



RECOMMENDED

Practices to consider from other respected sources, such as the CDC

Specific ideas for implementation that may be helpful if feasible in your program

NOT REQUIRED

FAMILY CHILD CARE RATIOS AND GROUP SIZE

DELACARE REQUIRED



Family and Large Family Child Care Homes must follow DELACARE Regulations regarding the number and ages of children served, while practicing social distancing to the extent practical given the age, ability, and social and emotional needs of the children in care.



CENTER RATIOS AND GROUP SIZE – DELACARE REQUIRED

	Age of Child	Minimum Staff/Child Ratio	Maximum Group Size
Infant	Under 12 months	1:4	8
Young toddler (1 year old)	12 through 23 months	1:6	12
Older toddler (2 years old)	24 through 35 months	1:8	15
Young preschool child (3 years old)	36 through 47 months	1:10	15
Older preschool child (4 years old)	48 months or older, not yet attending kindergarten or higher	1:12	15
School-age child	Attending kindergarten or higher	1:15	15

RATIOS AND GROUP SIZES

CDC RECOMMENDATIONS



Consider keeping siblings together, if possible, to limit the people that the family group has contact with
(American Academy of Pediatrics)

Consider creating a separate classroom or group for the children of healthcare workers and other first responder.

Develop plans to cover classes in the event of increased staff absences. Reach out to substitutes to determine their anticipated availability if regular staff members need to stay home if they or their family members are sick or vulnerable.

Crete a communication system for staff and families for self-reporting of symptoms and notification of exposures and closures.



FACILITY ACCESS

DELACARE REQUIRED



Programs must suspend the use of all outside contractors, enrichment programs, and entertainment, except:

- Contractors doing work outside of child care hours (ensure that proper cleaning/sanitizing has been conducted before children re-enter the facility or areas where work was being done)
- Physical therapy/Occupational therapy appointments
- Early Childhood Mental Health Consultants

Adults who drop off and pick up children must do so at the entrance to the facility, not the classroom, unless the classroom has its own separate entrance where the child can be safely dropped off.

Staff will receive the children and see that they arrive safely in their classrooms.



FACILITY ACCESS

CDC RECOMMENDATIONS



Stagger arrival and drop off times and plan to limit direct contact with parents as much as possible.

- Have child care providers greet children outside as they arrive.
- Infants could be transported in their car seats. Store car seat out of children's reach.

Ideally, the same parent or designated person should drop off and pick up the child every day.

If possible, older people such as grandparents or those with serious underlying medical conditions should not drop off or pick up children, because they are more at risk for [severe illness from COVID-19](#).



FACE COVERINGS

- All child care providers and/or staff working in child care facilities must wear cloth face coverings while at work;
- Business owners must provide these cloth face coverings to staff if staff do not already have them;
- Business owners must deny entry to anyone over the age of 12 who is not wearing a face covering, if one is not available to be provided to that person.

FACE COVERINGS

- Children under age 2 should NOT wear face coverings.
- Children age 2 years and older who can wear a cloth face covering safely and consistently should wear one in accordance with [CDC guidance](#). There are a variety of [strategies](#) parents/guardians and child care providers can use to assist children with becoming comfortable wearing cloth face coverings. Parents/guardians are encouraged to practice these strategies at home to help their child become comfortable with wearing a cloth face covering prior to use of a cloth face covering in a child care.
- Cloth face coverings are recommended for children ages 2-4 when feasible.
- It is strongly recommended that children ages 5-12 in child care wear face coverings, if doing so will not either pose a health risk to them, encourage unnecessary touching of the face, create behavioral challenges, or if they cannot safely put on and take off the face covering.
- Face coverings are required for children older than age 12.

FACE COVERINGS

- A child should not wear a face covering if it poses any health risks, such as choking, strangulation, difficulty breathing, constant touching of the face, or inability to remove or put on a mask without assistance.
- Face coverings should never be worn during nap time or during meals and may be removed for outdoor activities if social distancing can be maintained.
- For questions or guidance, child care facilities should contact HSPContact@delaware.gov.
- Parents/guardians and child care staff should discuss the considerations in this document for each individual child, and consult with the child's health care provider if necessary (e.g., for children with certain conditions such as asthma), to determine if an individual child is able to safely and consistently wear a cloth face covering while in child care.

PHYSICAL DISTANCING

DELACARE REQUIRED



Adults who drop off and pick up children must do so at the entrance to the facility, not the classroom, unless the classroom has its own separate entrance where the child can be safely dropped off. Staff will receive the children and see that they arrive safely in their classrooms.

The maximum allowable group size is 15 children (or smaller, as indicated by DELACARE regulations);

Groups should consist of the same children and staff each day, and mixing of groups should be restricted as much as possible;

Groups must be kept at least 6 feet apart if using shared spaces;

Providers may seek a variance from OCCL if they must have a group size larger than 15. Providers must follow the variance process outlined in DELACARE Regulations.



PHYSICAL DISTANCING

CDC RECOMMENDATIONS



If possible, child care classes should include the same group each day, and the same child care providers should remain with the same group each day.

Consider whether to alter or halt daily group activities that may promote transmission.

Keep each group of children in a separate room.

Limit the mixing of children, such as staggering playground times and keeping groups separate for special activities such as art, music, and exercising.

Space out seating to 6 ft. apart, if possible.

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.



MOVING FORWARD

Create a plan



HELPFUL TOOLS: RISK MANAGEMENT ASSESSMENT

Mandated Requirements	Considerations
Follow the current requirements for cloth face coverings	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• How will I provide cloth face coverings for staff?• What is my policy regarding children ages 2-12 wearing cloth face coverings?• How will I communicate the program's cloth face covering policy to staff and families?• How will I educate my families and staff on why face coverings are necessary, how to wear them, and how to remove them?• How can I support families to help their children be more comfortable with wearing face coverings?• What will I do if a staff member refuses to wear a cloth face covering?• What will I do if a parent/guardian refuses to follow the program's cloth face covering policy?• How will children's face coverings be stored during times when they cannot be worn?• Do I have a need for any health care grade masks?• How will I train my staff on proper face covering procedures?

WE ARE HERE TO HELP



OFFICE OF CHILD CARE LICENSING

Please contact your licensing specialist for questions, clarification, and support



DIEEC - DELAWARE STARS

Technical Assistants are available to:

- Support individual programs with implementation
- Facilitate discussion and peer support through Communities of Practice



DIEEC-PD

Trainings and coaching will be available to support content as needed



FOLLOW-UP WEBINARS

EVERY WEEK FOR THE NEXT FOUR WEEKS



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