

DELAWARE INSTITUTE FOR  
**Excellence in**  
**Early Childhood**



**Delaware**  
Department of Education



## **RE-OPENING DELAWARE CHILD CARE SAFELY**

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

***WEBINAR 3 - JUNE 25, 2020***

# WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Panel Members:

**Betty Gail Timm**

Administrator, Office of Child Care Licensing

**Jamie Mack**

Chief of Health Systems Protection, Division of Public Health

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Delaware Stars Director, Delaware Institute for Excellence in Early Childhood



# THANK YOU TO DELAWARE'S CHILD CARE PROFESSIONALS!



# WEBINAR OBJECTIVES

- Talk through Delaware requirements and additional recommendations for requested topic areas
- Respond to questions shared by Delaware early childhood professionals

# BLUEPRINT ORGANIZATION

What questions will this answer?



# CONTENT AREAS

- Who can I provide care for?
- How should I change my operating procedures?
  - Revised Group Size, Ratio Requirements, and Staffing
  - Minimize Risk at Drop Off and Pick Up Times
    - Facility Access
    - Screening Procedures
  - Guidelines for Cleaning and Disinfecting the Environment
  - Handwashing
  - Diapering and Toileting
  - Minimize Risk While Caring for Children
    - Healthy Hygiene Practices
    - Physical Distancing
    - Outside Play
    - Meals & Snacks
- What should I do if someone in my program gets sick?

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES (APPENDIX)

How can I support the social and emotional needs of everyone in my program?

Supporting Early  
Childhood  
Professionals

Talking with  
Children about  
COVID-19

How can I make sure my program is ready?

Preparedness  
and Planning

Arrival/Drop-  
off and  
Screening

Stable Groups  
and Social  
Distancing

Sanitation and  
Cleaning  
Practices

# 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

Recent Updates in Orange



## 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 CARE GROUP SIZE, RATIOS, AND STAFFING

## DELAWARE 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-BASED GROUP SIZE, RATIOS, AND STAFFING – 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

Programs must ensure that they have adequate staff each day to meet the restricted ratios and group sizes

# CENTER-BASED GROUP SIZE, RATIOS, AND STAFFING – DELACARE REQUIRED \*UPDATE

Modify 24.K.1(c) Staffing; Early Childhood Intern Guidance: Staff with a valid intern qualifications certificate issued by Delaware First who are at least 18 years of age, have at least one year of experience at the child care facility at which they are currently working, and have been determined eligible as a result of their comprehensive background check by the Criminal History Unit, may be alone with children **ages three years and older**. Documentation of age, experience, and eligibility must be on site in the employee's file. Staff qualifications for those working with infants and toddlers remain as found in DELACARE Regulations for Early Care and Education and School-Age Centers. Aides may not be alone with children at any time.

Modify 28.C General Qualifications Guidance: A licensee shall ensure that a staff member **has a scheduled fingerprinting appointment** with Delaware State Police before the start of employment. This information shall be placed in the employee's file. The staff member with a fingerprinting appointment may begin work while being supervised at all times by a person who has completed the background check process and been determined eligible and qualified at least as an early childhood assistant teacher or school-age site assistant. No staff member may be alone with children until after DSCYF's Criminal History Unit reviews the comprehensive background check and determines their eligibility.

# GROUP SIZE, RATIOS, AND STAFFING

## CDC RECOMMENDATIONS



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

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.

Implement flexible sick leave policies and practices if feasible

Designate an individual to be responsible for responding to COVID-19 concerns. Employees should know who this person is and how to contact them

Create a communication system for staff and families for self-reporting of symptoms and for notifications of exposures or closures



# FACILITY ACCESS

## DELAWARE REQUIRED



Programs must suspend the use of all outside contractors, enrichment programs, and entertainment, both indoors and outdoors, 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 due to severe illness from COVID-19



# SCREENING PROCEDURES DELAWARE REQUIRED

Providers must ensure that staff and children do not have an elevated temperature before entering the facility. This may be done by actively monitoring a person's temperature before entrance to the facility, or by asking staff and children (or a parent/guardian on behalf of the child) to report their temperature upon arrival.

- It is best to use touchless thermometers (forehead/temporal artery thermometers) if possible, but if you must use oral or other types of thermometers, make sure to clean the thermometers thoroughly between each person, as to not spread infection.
- Follow the manufacturer's directions to disinfect the thermometer.
- If no directions are available, rinse the tip of the thermometer in cold water, clean it with alcohol or alcohol swabs, and then rinse it again.
- Personnel screening for fever should consider wearing gloves and must wear face masks per CDC recommendations.

If a staff member or child reports or is noted to have body temperature at or above 99.5 degrees Fahrenheit, a discussion must be had with the staff member or parent to determine if there is an underlying cause. The staff member or child may be admitted to the child care, but increased monitoring throughout the day must follow to ensure the temperature does not increase or additional symptoms do not develop. If a staff member or child reports or is noted to have a body temperature at or above 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit, they must be sent home. If a provider has a policy that requires staff or children be excluded for a temperature lower than 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit, they should continue to follow their policy, as well as DELACARE Regulations, on child health exclusions.

# SCREENING PROCEDURES DELAWARE REQUIRED

Providers must also ensure that each incoming staff member and child (or the child's parent may answer on their behalf) is screened with a basic questionnaire each time they enter the child care facility. The questionnaire shall include at least the questions below: o Do you have any of the following symptoms: fever, cough, shortness of breath/difficulty breathing, chills, repeated shaking with chills, muscle pain, headache, sore throat, or new loss of smell or taste?

If NO, proceed to the next question.

If YES, but symptoms have a known cause (asthma, COPD, chronic sinusitis, etc.), the provider should weigh the risks for COVID-19 exposure and may consider sending the staff member or child home.

If YES (for fever of 100.4 or higher), or the staff member or child is otherwise symptomatic and considered at risk for COVID-19 exposure, the staff member or child may not be admitted to the facility and should isolate at home.

- The staff member or child should remain at home for a total of 7 days after symptoms have resolved defined as resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medication and improvement in respiratory symptoms (e.g. cough, Page | 12 shortness of breath); and at least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared before being permitted to return to work or child care.
- Three days after symptoms resolve, patients are no longer required to self-isolate at home; however, they must continue to practice strict social distancing, avoid sustained close contact with others and maintain good hand hygiene, for the remaining four days (for a total of seven days) before returning to work.
- Staff or children who have been excluded may return after this 7 day period however should continue to recognize the risk of infectiousness and self-monitor for symptoms.
- Staff members should consult medical professionals if desired or needed and should adhere to screening decisions made by the primary care provider or DPH medical personnel as appropriate.
- If at any time a doctor confirms the cause of the staff member or child's fever or other symptoms is not COVID-19 and approves them to return to work or care, then the provider shall follow the appropriate DELACARE Regulations and their facility's policies in regard to return to work or child care.

# SCREENING PROCEDURES DELAWARE REQUIRED

Have you been in close contact (e.g., within 6 feet for more than 10 minutes) with a person with confirmed COVID-19 infection?

If NO, the staff member or child may proceed with work or may receive child care at the facility.

If YES, the staff member or child will be required to stay at home for 14 days from the time they were exposed to confirmed COVID-19.

# SCREENING PROCEDURES

## CDC RECOMMENDATIONS



Implement health checks safely and respectfully, with measures to ensure confidentiality

Encourage staff to stay home if they are sick

Encourage parents to keep children home if they are sick

Protect workers conducting temperature screenings. The most protective methods incorporate social distancing or physical barriers to eliminate or minimize exposures due to close contact to a child who has symptoms during screening.



# GUIDELINES FOR CLEANING AND DISINFECTING THE ENVIRONMENT

## DELAWARE REQUIRED

Suspend use of sand and water tables.

- Water tables may be used if proper social distancing can be maintained, such as only one child using the water table at a time, and water tables are cleaned between each child's use and sanitized at the end of the day.

Suspend use of play-doh or other clay-like materials

Suspend use of shared toys that children wear on their faces unless worn by an individual child and stored separately for that child

Staff and children **MUST** wash hands upon entering the class and upon leaving.

All hard surfaces must be sanitized twice a day and as needed

Toys should be separated for sanitizing immediately after being placed in a child's mouth

All frequently touched surfaces (doorknobs, light switches, faucets, phones) should be sanitized frequently throughout the day

Access to food preparation areas should be restricted to only staff who are essential to food preparation

Programs must ensure they have adequate supplies to meet these additional requirements

# GUIDELINES FOR CLEANING AND DISINFECTING THE ENVIRONMENT

## CDC RECOMMENDATIONS



Do not share toys between groups of children unless they are washed and sanitized between groups

Toys that cannot be cleaned and sanitized should not be used

Keep children's belongings separated and in individually labeled containers or areas and taken home each day and cleaned, if possible

Ensure adequate supplies to minimize sharing high touch materials (e.g., art supplies), or limit use by one group of children at a time and disinfect between

Ensure that ventilation systems operate properly and increase circulation of outdoor air as much as possible

Open outside doors and windows as long as doing so does not pose a health or safety risk to children in the program



# HANDWASHING

## DELAWARE REQUIRED



All programs must continue to follow DELACARE Regulations. In addition:

Staff and children must wash hands upon entering the classroom and upon leaving.

Business owners must provide access to hand sanitizer for staff.



# HANDWASHING

## CDC RECOMMENDATIONS



Wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If hands are not visibly dirty, alcohol-based hand sanitizers with at least 60% alcohol can be used if soap and water are not readily available.

Assist children with handwashing, including infants who cannot wash hands alone. After assisting children with handwashing, staff should also wash their hands.

Place posters describing handwashing steps near sinks. Developmentally appropriate posters in multiple languages are available from CDC.

Train all staff in the correct handwashing procedures safety actions.



# HEALTHY HYGIENE PRACTICES: FACE COVERINGS - DELAWARE REQUIRED

- 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

# HEALTHY HYGIENE PRACTICES: FACE COVERINGS - DELAWARE REQUIRED

- 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.

# HEALTHY HYGIENE PRACTICES: FACE COVERINGS - DELAWARE REQUIRED

- 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](mailto: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

## DELAWARE 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, the same child care providers should remain with the same group each day.

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

Consider cancelling or postponing special events such as performances, field trips, and extracurricular activities

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.



# OUTSIDE PLAY – DELAWARE REQUIRED

Public playgrounds are recommended to remain closed. Child care programs may continue to use their playgrounds with restrictions.

- Groups of children should be separated from each other throughout the day, including during outdoor play
- Only one group of children may be on a single playground at one time
- The equipment should be wiped down to the greatest extent possible between classes.

Use of sprinklers is permitted, if social distancing is maintained.

Face coverings may be removed for outdoor activities if social distancing can be maintained

If the facility has multiple playgrounds, one group may be on each playground provided the two groups remain at least six feet apart. The number of children in each group is limited to the maximum group size for that age group, and children from different classrooms may not be combined or mixed.

At this time, OCCL will not cite non-compliance to DELACARE Regulations if the requirement for daily moderate to vigorous physical indoor or out is not met

# OUTSIDE PLAY

## CDC RECOMMENDATIONS



Consider staggering playground times to limit the mixing of children

Clean high touch surfaces made of plastic or metal, such as grab bars and railings, routinely.



# MEALS & SNACKS

## DELAWARE REQUIRED



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Access to food preparation areas should be restricted to only staff who are essential to food preparation.



# MEALS & SNACKS

## CDC RECOMMENDATIONS



If a cafeteria or group dining room is typically used, serve meals in classrooms instead.

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.

Avoid sharing of foods and utensils.

To the extent possible, when washing, feeding, or holding very young children: Child care providers can protect themselves by wearing an over-large button-down, long sleeved shirt and by wearing long hair up off the collar in a ponytail or other updo.

Child care providers should wash their hands, neck, and anywhere touched by a child's secretions.

Child care providers should change the child's clothes if secretions are on the child's clothes. They should change the button-down shirt, if there are secretions on it, and wash their hands again.



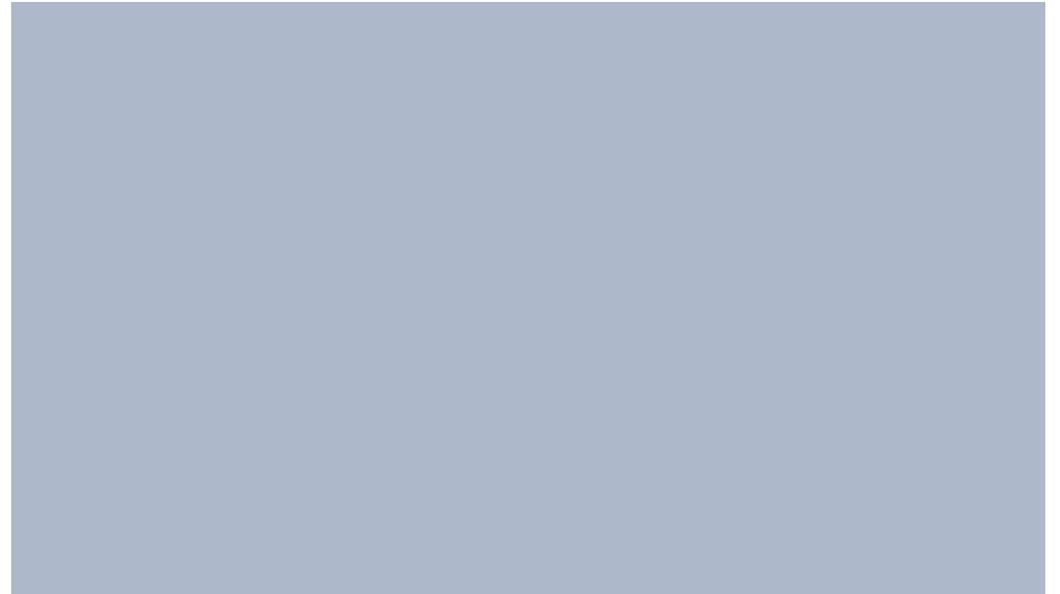
# WHAT SHOULD I DO IF SOMEONE IN MY PROGRAM GETS SICK?

## DELAWARE REQUIRED



If a child or employee tests positive for COVID-19, contact the Division of Public Health at **1-888-295-5156** or [dphcall@delaware.gov](mailto:dphcall@delaware.gov)

Facilities with positive cases should contact DPH at [hspcontact@delaware.gov](mailto:hspcontact@delaware.gov) or **2-1-1** for cleaning guidance specific to their facility



# WHAT SHOULD I DO IF SOMEONE IN MY PROGRAM GETS SICK?

## CDC RECOMMENDATIONS



Establish procedures to ensure children and staff who come to the child care sick or become sick are sent home as soon as possible. Consider establishing procedures for safely transporting anyone sick to their home, or to a healthcare facility, as appropriate

Keep sick children and staff separate from well children and staff until they can be sent home

Identify an area to separate anyone who exhibits COVID-19-like symptoms during hours of operation, ensuring that children are not left without adult supervision

Thoroughly clean and disinfect surfaces in the “sick area” after the sick individual has gone home

Identify areas the sick person had access to, so they can be cleaned and disinfected



# 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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# THANK YOU



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