

DELAWARE INSTITUTE FOR  
*Excellence in*  
Early Childhood



Delaware  
Department of Education



# RE-OPENING DELAWARE EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION SAFELY:

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

---

*RECENT UPDATES*

*SEPTEMBER 21, 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

**Kristy Sheffler**

Delaware Stars Director, Delaware Institute for Excellence in Early Childhood



## WEBINAR OBJECTIVES

- Review September updates made to the “Re-Opening Delaware Early Care and Education Safely: A blueprint for supporting our early childhood professionals during covid-19”
- Respond to questions shared by Delaware early childhood professionals

# THANK YOU TO DELAWARE'S CHILD CARE PROFESSIONALS!



# BLUEPRINT ORGANIZATION

What questions is this designed to answer?



# CONTENT AREAS

- What financial resources are available in Delaware?
- 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
  - Activities
- What should I do if someone in my program gets sick?

# 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

# BLUEPRINT UPDATES



# WHO CAN I PROVIDE CARE FOR? \*UPDATES

**Existing Camps:** On a limited basis through October 30, existing youth/summer camps may request to continue operations. **New “pop up” camps are not permitted.** Camps wishing to continue services must send the Office of Child Care Licensing (OCCL) the following documents for approval:

- A letter indicating interest
- A daily schedule of programming and hours of operation
- A plan to support an environment for remote learning
- Cost of attendance
- Facility/facilities to be used including exact address and room(s) to be used
- List of staff and copies of current background eligibility determination for staff

This information may be mailed or emailed to [Kimberly.Garvey@delaware.gov](mailto:Kimberly.Garvey@delaware.gov). Upon receipt of complete/approved documents, DOE will send the provider an approval letter for limited/temporary continuation. You must be approved before beginning this care.

**Licensed Child Care Partnerships with Districts/Charters:** On a limited basis through October 30, licensed child care providers may work directly with schools to provide child care for school age children in school buildings without the need for additional space licensure by OCCL. Providers may reach out to their local district/charter school, or schools may contact providers regarding their need. Licensed providers wishing to provide care in school buildings must send OCCL the following documents for approval:

- A letter indicating interest
- A daily schedule of programming and hours of operation
- A plan to support an environment for remote learning
- Cost of attendance
- Facility/facilities to be used including exact address and room(s) to be used
- List of staff and copies of current background eligibility determination for staff

This information may be mailed or emailed to [Kimberly.Garvey@delaware.gov](mailto:Kimberly.Garvey@delaware.gov). Upon receipt of complete/approved documents, DOE will send the provider an approval letter for limited/temporary continuation. You must be approved before beginning this care.

# REVISED GROUP SIZE, RATIO REQUIREMENTS \*UPDATES

## Family and Large Family Child Care Homes:

- In a family child care home, a provider's own school-age children will not count in the licensed capacity.
- In a family or large family child care home (private residence or commercial setting) the school-age children of the provider and staff person will not count in the licensed capacity.
- A variance will not be issued by OCCL to exceed the licensed capacity of a family child care home or large family child care home.

## Early Care and Education Center programs:

- The maximum allowable group size is 15 preschool-age children or younger (or smaller, as contained in DELACARE Regulations based on the ages of children or room size restrictions);
- The maximum allowable group size is 25 school-age children (kindergarten or higher), space permitting.
  - Staff to child ratio may be 1:20 for school-age children if supervision is provided by an early childhood teacher (or higher) or a school-age site coordinator (or higher). Otherwise, two staff are required to provide supervision when the group size exceeds 15 school-age children.
  - Variances will not be granted to exceed the maximum group size of 25.
- Social distancing of 6 feet for school-age children shall be maintained with appropriate use of face coverings, as appropriate to the age and developmental levels of the school-age children in care and the activities being performed. Note: if the children are seated and facing the same direction, then 3 feet between students with use of face coverings is appropriate. Social distancing of younger than school-age children is not required but is encouraged where feasible;

# REVISED STAFFING \*UPDATES

## DELAWARE REQUIRED



### 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 **three months** 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.

Based on currently available information and clinical expertise, older adults and people of any age who have serious underlying medical conditions might be at higher risk for severe illness for COVID-19. To protect those at higher risk, it's important that everyone practices healthy hygiene behaviors.

- If you have staff members or teachers age 65 or older, or with serious underlying health conditions, encourage them to talk to their healthcare provider to assess their risk and to determine if they should stay home if there is an outbreak in their community.



## CDC RECOMMENDATIONS

# FACILITY ACCESS \*UPDATES

## DELAWARE REQUIRED



Adults who drop off and pick up children must do so at the entrance to the facility, **or the foyer area**, 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.

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)
- **Individuals providing services contained in a child's IFSP or IEP**
- Early Childhood Mental Health Consultants
- **Fire Marshal inspections**
- **Electrical inspections**
- **Lead Risk Assessments**
- **Office of Drinking Water representatives**
- **Radon testing, if not performed by the property owner or licensee**
- **Individuals participating in a pre-employment working interview, as long as the individual is screened per the questionnaire in Screening Procedures and wears a mask in accordance with Healthy Hygiene Practices. The individual must only participate in the working interview in the classroom to which they will be assigned if employed.**
- **Additional individuals if approved in advance by OCCL**



# SCREENING PROCEDURES \*UPDATES

Screening questionnaire must ask each staff member and child if they have any of the following symptoms: fever, cough, shortness of breath/difficulty breathing, chills, repeated shaking with chills, muscle pain, headache, sore throat, vomiting, nausea, diarrhea, headache/congestion/runny nose with no known underlying cause (such as seasonal or chronic allergies), fatigue, or new loss of smell or taste?

- If a staff member or child is symptomatic and considered at risk for COVID-19 exposure, the staff member or child may not be admitted to the facility and should be advised to consult a health care professional for further guidance, and/or obtain a COVID-19 test. The staff member or child should not return until a health care provider has provided a return to work/child care document.
  - If a COVID-19 test was taken and a positive result was returned, the staff member or student should isolate at home. At least 10 days must have passed since symptoms first appeared, including at least one day (24 hours) since recovery where staff or students have been fever-free without the use of fever-reducing medications and improvement in symptoms has occurred, e.g. cough, shortness of breath, before being permitted to return to work or child care.
    - A health care provider or the Division of Public Health can provide a letter stating that the individual has been released from monitoring to the patient.

- If a COVID-19 test is performed with a negative result, the individual should consult their health care provider to determine if the situation warrants continuation of isolation. The student or staff member must provide the LCC with a return to work/childcare document by the health care provider to allow the student or staff member to return to child care in this situation.
  - Note that a negative test is relevant for the point in time at which the test was taken. It does not mean the staff or student will not develop COVID-19 in the future.

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 provides written documentation of approval for 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.

If a staff member or child has been in close contact (within 6 feet for more than 15 minutes) with a confirmed COVID-19 case, 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. If a COVID-19 test is performed with a negative result, the individual must still remain at home until the end of the 14-day period to see if symptoms develop.

# GUIDELINES FOR CLEANING AND DISINFECTING THE ENVIRONMENT

## \* UPDATES

### DELAWARE REQUIRED



Suspend use of **shared** Play-Doh or other clay-like materials.

Suspend use of shared toys that children wear on their faces such as **play** masks and goggles, except **play** masks or goggles that are worn by an individual child and stored separately for that individual child.

Toys that children have placed in their mouths or that are otherwise contaminated by body secretions or excretions should be set aside until they are cleaned by hand by a person wearing gloves. Clean with water and detergent, rinse, sanitize with an EPA-registered disinfectant, rinse again, and air-dry. You may also clean in a mechanical dishwasher. Be mindful of items more likely to be placed in a child's mouth, like play food, dishes, and utensils.

Children's books, like other paper-based materials such as mail or envelopes, are not considered a high risk for transmission and do not need additional cleaning or disinfection procedures.



### CDC RECOMMENDATIONS

# HANDWASHING \*UPDATES

## DELAWARE REQUIRED



Business owners must provide staff and children with access to handwashing facilities and supplies and hand sanitizer. Children and staff must be allowed time to wash hands frequently throughout the day.



# HEALTHY HYGIENE PRACTICES: FACE COVERINGS \*UPDATES

All child care providers and/or staff working in child care facilities must wear cloth face coverings **covering the nose and mouth** while at work.

- During nap time when children are sleeping, staff may remove the cloth face covering IF social distancing is maintained and the mask is readily available to reposition properly on the face when approaching children and others.
- During outside play, staff may remove the cloth face covering IF social distancing is maintained and the mask is readily available to reposition properly on the face when approaching children and others.
- If outside the child care home or center, face coverings must be worn by children kindergarten and above if social distancing cannot be maintained.

If a staff member or other adults in a child care facility cannot wear a face covering due to a medical condition, documentation from the individual's health care provider is required but does not require the health condition to be named. Documentation must be available for review upon request by DPH or OCCL.

- Individuals with such documentation are required to wear a face shield at such times that a facial covering would be required.

# HEALTHY HYGIENE PRACTICES: FACE COVERINGS \*UPDATES

Providers must follow DPH guidance regarding face coverings for children and the modifications to Delaware's State of Emergency due to a public health threat;

- All children in kindergarten and above must wear face coverings at all times while inside child care centers and child care homes except for meals, naps, or when doing so would inhibit the child's health. If outside the child care home or center, face coverings must be worn by children kindergarten and above if social distancing cannot be maintained.
- All children 2 years of age through pre-kindergarten are strongly encouraged to wear face coverings if they can do so reliably in compliance with CDC guidance on how to wear cloth face coverings while inside child care homes and centers, except for meals, naps, or when doing so would inhibit the child's health and outside, if social distancing cannot be maintained.
- Any child under two years of age must not wear a face covering due to suffocation risk.
- Child care homes and centers shall develop written procedures to respond to individual requests for reasonable accommodations or modifications to their face covering policy to allow a child who cannot wear a face covering because of their health or a disability to participate in, or benefit from, the programs offered or services that are provided by the child care home or center.
- Child care providers and staff at child care homes and centers must supervise use of face coverings by children to avoid misuse and monitor compliance.

Facilities must deny entry to anyone in kindergarten or above who is not wearing a face covering in compliance with DPH guidance and the State of Emergency, if one is not available to be provided to that person.

# PHYSICAL DISTANCING \*UPDATES

## DELAWARE REQUIRED



Social distancing of 6 feet for school-age children shall be maintained with appropriate use of face coverings, as appropriate to the age and developmental levels of the school-age children in care and the activities being performed. Note: if the children are seated and facing the same direction, then 3 feet between students with use of face coverings is appropriate. Social distancing of younger than school-age children is not required but is encouraged where feasible;



# ACTIVITIES \*UPDATES

Child care homes and centers must discontinue off-site field trips.

## **Family and Large Family Child Care Homes:**

Modify 52.J Activities and Interactions (Family and Large Family Child Care Homes Regulations)

A licensee shall ensure activities, such as watching television or using a gaming device, tablet, phone, or computer, are supervised, age-appropriate, and educational.

- a. Screen time activities for preschool age children require written parent/guardian permission and are limited to one hour or less per day, unless a special event occurs. Exceptions to this can be requested by submitting a completed variance request to OCCL if a preschool-age child or younger has an IEP, IFSP, or attends a public/private preschool program that has remote learning requirements.
- b. Screen time activities for school-age children do not require parent/guardian permission and are limited to one hour a day, unless connected with the school-age child's educational program.
- c. Children younger than two years of age are prohibited from participating in screen time activities.
- d. Assistive technology is not included in screen time restrictions.

## **Early Care and Education Center programs:**

Modify 76.D Activity Schedule (Center Regulations)

Guidance: A licensee shall ensure screen time activities, such as watching television, using a gaming device, tablet, phone, or computer, are supervised by a staff member, age-appropriate, and educational.

- a. Screen time activities for preschool age children require written parent/guardian permission and are limited to one hour or less per day, unless a special event occurs. Exceptions to this can be requested by submitting a completed variance request to OCCL if a preschool-age child or younger has an IEP, IFSP, or attends a public/private preschool program that has remote learning requirements for that student.
- b. Screen time activities for school-age children do not require parent/guardian permission and are limited to one hour a day, unless connected with the school-age child's educational program.
- c. Children younger than two years of age are prohibited from participating in screen time activities.
- d. Assistive technology is not included in screen time restrictions.

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

## \*UPDATES

### DELAWARE REQUIRED



Reporting of COVID-19 cases among staff or students to DPH is required. It is covered under the category of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) – as SARS CoV-2 is the virus that causes COVID-19. Child care providers must report positive cases of COVID-19 in their center or childcare home to DPH.

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) to discuss next steps.

Additional information and advice from the Delaware Department of Public Health (DPH) can be found in the FAQs for [Responding to COVID in Licensed Child Care Facilities](#). Steps for child care programs to respond to positive or possible COVID-19 cases are outlined in the [Navigating COVID-19](#) graphic.



What should happen if a staff/child in my program tests positive for COVID-19?

- Staff/child should isolate & follow directions of healthcare provider and DPH Contact Tracer.
- Program must report the positive case to DPH at 1-888-295-5156.

What should happen if a staff/child in my program has symptoms of COVID-19?

- Staff/child should not come to the program.
- Staff/child should call healthcare provider and/or get tested for COVID-19.

What should happen if a staff/child in my program has been in "close contact" (within 6 feet for more than 15 minutes) with someone . . .

...who has tested positive for COVID-19?

- Staff/child should self-quarantine.
- Staff/child should self-monitor for symptoms.
- Staff/child should follow directions of healthcare provider and DPH Contact Tracer.

...who is being tested for COVID-19?

- Staff/child should self-monitor for symptoms.
- Staff/child should practice physical distancing.
- If the test was conducted due to exposure or symptoms, staff/child should not return until results are received.
  - If negative, they may return.
  - If positive, follow protocols.

...who has been in close contact with someone else who tested positive for COVID-19?

- Staff/child should self-monitor for symptoms.
- Staff/child should practice physical distancing.
- Staff/child may continue to attend, as a close contact of a close contact does not need to quarantine.

...who might have been exposed?

- Staff/child should self-monitor for symptoms.
- Staff/child should practice physical distancing.
- Staff/child may continue to attend program.

## Program May Remain Open If

### Program ensures that:

- Positive staff/child does not return until cleared by healthcare provider.
- Close contacts of positive staff/child do not return for 14 days after the last exposure to the positive person.
- Cleaning & disinfection occurs, following CDC guidelines.

## HOW DO I...

### Self-Quarantine?

- Stay home for 14 days after the last exposure to the positive person.
- Avoid contact with other people.
- Don't share household items.

### Self-Monitor?

- Be alert for symptoms of COVID-19, especially a fever, dry cough, or shortness of breath.
- Take your temperature every morning and night.
- Call healthcare provider if you have trouble breathing or a fever.
- Call before seeking medical treatment.

### Practice Physical Distancing?

- Stay 6 feet away from others whenever possible.
- Don't hug or shake hands.
- Wear face covering or mask when not able to physically distance.

# HOW CAN I MAKE SURE MY PROGRAM IS READY? \*UPDATES

## *Supporting Remote Learning*

### **Considerations**

*Preparing Families of School-Age Children*

*Preparing School-Age Child Care (SACC) Staff*

*Preparing the School-Age (SA) Virtual Learning Environment*

*Supporting School-Age Children*

*Partnering with DOE Schools*

*Students Participating in Hybrid Learning*

*Additional Considerations for Family and Large Family Child Care Providers*

## **Supporting Remote Learning Resources**

# 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 are available to support content as needed



## FOLLOW-UP WEBINARS

Slides, recordings, Q&As from webinars posted on [delawarestars.udel.edu/blueprint-for-reopening](https://delawarestars.udel.edu/blueprint-for-reopening)

Supporting Remote Learning



DELAWARE INSTITUTE FOR  
*Excellence in*  
Early Childhood



# THANK YOU



DELAWARESTARS@UDEL.EDU



WWW.DELAWARESTARS.UDEL.EDU

