

This is a rapidly evolving situation. Recommendations will be updated and shared as new information becomes available.

This guidance outlines infection control recommendations for COVID-19 in childcare facilities.

What we know

Current evidence suggests that COVID-19 is transmitted via respiratory droplets between people in close contact, and contact with contaminated surfaces of equipment; not by airborne transmission.

Older adults – people over age 60 – and those with serious chronic medical conditions (including, but not limited to: heart disease, diabetes, and lung disease) are at highest risk for contracting COVID-19 infection.

Less than 2% of confirmed COVID-19 cases globally have been under age 19.

Children should remain at home if possible. Children should **not** be watched by individuals who have underlying medical conditions or who are elderly.

Pima County Health Department (PCHD) and Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS) recognize that many people need to continue working – primarily healthcare workers, first responders, and critical infrastructure personnel.

PCHD and ADHS recommend that childcare facilities implement protocols for symptom screening for all individuals entering the facility, practicing social distancing, and frequent cleaning and disinfection.

- Before allowing entry into the operation, screen all staff and children and deny entry to any person who meets any of the following criteria:
 1. A temperature of 100.4°F or above;
 2. Signs or symptoms of a respiratory infection, such as a cough, shortness of breath, or sore throat.

If a child or staff member has any symptom of respiratory illness, the child or staff member should be excluded from the childcare facility and the family or individual should contact their healthcare provider.

For guidelines on what should be done if someone has tested positive for COVID-19, has symptoms consistent with COVID-19, or has come into contact with someone known or believed to have COVID-19, please see [PCHD's Persons Under Investigation \(PUI\) & Close Contact At-Home Guidance](#). Please share this with your staff and families.

- **Recommended practices to social distance, if feasible for your facility:**
 - Cancel all gatherings, field trips, staff training, and congregate meals.
 - Have parents drop children off at the door.
 - Keep classroom/groups to fewer than 10 people (including teachers).
 - Decrease ratio of staff-to-children.
 - Avoid mixing children in common areas or classes (lessen the number of different people interacting).
 - Stagger passing times, arrival times, and dismissal times.
 - Move tables/chairs/play stations 6 feet apart.
 - Place nap mats 6 feet apart.

- Distance children while eating.
- Provide each child individual meals and snacks. Stop practicing family-style meals.
- Teach children, staff, and families to maintain 6 feet of distance from each other while on-site.
- Establish a location for children who are ill that is away from other children but in sight of staff.
- Limit non-essential visitors to the facility. Restrict movement of visitors. Screen visitors through questions (e.g., “have you felt sick lately?”)
- Limit deliveries from vendors. Try to arrange for deliveries after your operating hours or leave deliveries outside the facility.
- Educate staff on the importance of social distancing outside of work – no gatherings, staying 6 feet away from people they do not live it, consider wearing homemade masks when grocery shopping, etc.

All personnel should wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Review this hygiene practice with clients as well. Hand sanitizer that is at least 60% alcohol should be used if you have it available.

Clean and disinfect your facility – routine cleaning of frequently touched surfaces (for example: tables, doorknobs, light switches, handles, desks, toilets, faucets, sinks, cell phones & tablets) both in areas where children are present as well as those reserved for staff only. [Use the CDC’s guidance on disinfecting for COVID-19.](#)

Post signs ([English](#), [Spanish](#)) at entrances to guide visitors to check in before going to see clients. All visitors should be screened for evidence of illness, and asked to leave the facility if ill.

Additional guidance can be found in the Arizona Department of Health Services [letter to childcare providers, dated March 18, 2020.](#)

For more detailed information, including on cleaning, please go to www.pima.gov/Covid19

Childcare facilities or clients with questions can call 211
For more information, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/> OR www.pima.gov/covid19