

Childcare Services

OVERVIEW

The Centers for Disease Control has issued significant guidance about how best to deal with COVID 19 in the childcare setting. Childcare facilities should operate in compliance with the KDHE issued health orders regarding child/staff ratios, limitation of 11 children in a childcare facility at any time.

Childcare service facilities should take every reasonable measure to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Hand washing, with soap and water, is the preferred method of sanitation according to KDHE guidelines. Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces. Employees should wear a facemask.

Children and staff who have a temperature or exhibit any other COVID-19 symptoms should stay home. Childcare facilities should be immediately notified if any staff members or children exhibit COVID-19 symptoms. Childcare facilities should establish procedures guaranteeing that children or staff who begin exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms after the start of each day are separated from others and sent home as soon as possible. Childcare facilities should establish procedures for administering temperature screening of staff on arrival every day. Anyone living in a home-based Child Care facility should follow the same guidelines as employees who work there.

All childcare facilities should ensure sure that all contact information for parents, staff and emergency contacts is current and establish a process for quickly Childcare facilities should establish communicating with families, staff, and emergency contacts. Staff who are at greater risk from COVID19 should consult with health professionals to assess their risk of currently working with children. Ensure that child/staff ratios are in compliance with KDHE guidelines and health orders regarding maximum number of children per classroom.

Considering the difficulty of consistently implementing social distancing within childcare facilities the CDC recommends that each class should include the same children and staff each day. Each group should be self-contained, particularly if the group is serving children of health care workers or first responders who have an increased likelihood of exposure to COVID-19. Childcare facilities should limit the mixing of children on playground and play areas. Childcare facilities should consider staggering arrival and drop-off times of children in separate classes to limit direct contact between parents and children from separate classes.

Childcare centers should prioritize sanitization and developing a daily schedule for sanitizing all high traffic areas as well as frequently touched items and surfaces. Childcare facilities should follow all CDC recommended cleaning guidelines.

Adapted from <https://ltgov.alabama.gov/reopen-alabama-responsibly/>

