

COVID-19: Guidance for Child Care Providers from the Wyoming Department of Health

March 20, 2020

Background

On March 19, 2020, Wyoming's State Health Officer issued a statewide public health order closing various types of businesses across Wyoming in order to mitigate the spread of the COVID-19 virus. It specified that child care facilities and providers were ordered closed, with the exception of those that provide child care services for "essential personnel." Questions regarding enforcement and interpretation of closure orders can be directed to your County Public Health Office.

A copy of the order can be found at the link below:

<https://health.wyo.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Statewide-Order-3.19.2020.pdf>

General Guidance

The Wyoming Department of Health recommends the following guidelines to child care providers who remain open during statewide closures resulting from the COVID-19 outbreak:

1. Children should be kept in small groups, with no more than 10 people (children and providers) in a single room or play area. There should be no large group activities. Appropriate social distancing should be practiced as much as possible within the facility for all staff and children.
2. Child care providers should implement enhanced sanitation and hygiene, including washing hands frequently with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. When soap and water is not available, use alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol volume. **Use of hand sanitizer for children should be closely supervised to avoid ingestion.**
3. Child care providers should engage in frequent and thorough cleaning on a daily basis, following all applicable regulations regarding cleaning, sanitizing, and disinfecting surfaces and other areas.
4. Child care facility staff should be monitored for symptoms, including fever, cough, and shortness of breath. **Staff who have these symptoms or report feeling sick should stay home.**
5. Parents and guardians should be instructed and required to keep children home if they are exhibiting any symptoms of fever, cough, or shortness of breath. **If a child care provider observes symptoms in a child, the child should be sent home.**
6. Child care providers should restrict visitors. No outside visitors or volunteers should be permitted on premises with the exception of staff that are essential to operations and any contracted providers who provide special education services.
7. Signs should be posted instructing and educating staff on routine measures for hygiene and mitigation of respiratory illness spread. The CDC has signage resources, including the following posters:
 - a. <https://www.cdc.gov/nonpharmaceutical-interventions/pdf/stay-home-youre-sick-employers-item4.pdf>
 - b. <https://www.cdc.gov/nonpharmaceutical-interventions/pdf/dont-spread-germs-work-item3.pdf>

For more information about the COVID-19 outbreak please visit: health.wyo.gov or cdc.gov

