

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

June 15, 2020 Update | FAQ Provided on Page 3

Background

On June 10, 2020 Wyoming's State Health Officer issued new public health orders related to the COVID-19 virus. These new orders take effect on June 15, 2020. In addition to other changes and exceptions in the new orders, childcare providers in Wyoming will be allowed to continue operating and serve additional children, with certain restrictions and recommendations in place. Questions regarding enforcement and interpretation of orders can be directed to your County Public Health Office.

A copy of the current statewide orders can be found at: <https://covid19.wyo.gov/>

General Guidance

The Wyoming Department of Health recommends the following guidelines to childcare providers who provide service during the COVID-19 outbreak:

1. Childcare facilities may resume normal operations, following standard rules and regulations regarding class size, with the following considerations:
 - a. While normal operations regarding class size can resume, smaller classes will ensure that fewer children are exposed if there is a confirmed COVID-19 case in the classroom;
 - b. The WDH continues to recommend that children and staff in different classrooms do not mix or interact in order to reduce the numbers of children and staff exposed in the case of a COVID-19 case in the facility.
2. Childcare providers should implement enhanced sanitation and hygiene, including washing hands upon arrival and frequently throughout the day 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. Childcare providers must engage in frequent and thorough cleaning at least twice daily of high touch surfaces (e.g. doorknobs, light switches, toilet handles, sink handles, countertops), following best practices and all applicable regulations. Specific surfaces and areas that are used and touched often should be cleaned and sanitized after each use (e.g. shared toys, keyboards, desks, remote controls).
4. Childcare providers must ensure that staff and children are screened for symptoms of COVID-19 at the beginning of the day upon arrival. Symptomatic individuals should not be allowed to enter the facility. See screening guidance [here](#).
5. Childcare facility staff must be monitored for [symptoms of COVID-19](#) **Staff who have these symptoms or report feeling sick must be sent home.**
6. 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 childcare provider observes symptoms in a child, the child should be sent home.**

7. Individuals dropping off or picking up children must stay 6 feet away from children they are not dropping off or picking up. Parents should remain in the classroom only for the period of time needed to pick up or drop off their child(ren).
8. Childcare 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.
9. Staff and children should wear face coverings to the greatest extent practicable. Face coverings should not be placed on children under the age of 2 years.
10. Field trips are not recommended.
11. Signs should be posted instructing and educating staff and parents on routine measures for hygiene and mitigation of respiratory illness spread. The CDC has numerous print and signage resources that can be accessed [here](#).

Answers to Frequently Asked Questions provided below.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ): Childcare Provider Guidance

What should a childcare center expect in the event of a confirmed case of COVID-19 within the facility?

If a center has a staff member or child with a confirmed case of COVID-19, the center will immediately be contacted by the Wyoming Department of Health or the County Public Health Office. The childcare center will be closed while the initial contact tracing process starts.

The Wyoming Department of Health or County Public Health Office may determine it is safe to reopen a portion of the childcare center if there was no exposure to the confirmed case of COVID-19.

The classroom where the positive case was identified will most likely need to stay closed for two weeks.

What is contact tracing?

Contact tracing is the process of identifying individuals who may have had close contact with an infected person. Once identified, the individuals are contacted to let them know of the exposure and so steps can be taken to stop chains of transmission.

Who is considered a close contact?

A close contact is someone who was within 6 feet of a positive individual for more than 10 minutes during the two days before the individual was symptomatic or while the individual was symptomatic.

What is the difference between isolation and quarantine?

Isolation separates sick people with a contagious disease from people who are not sick. Quarantine separates and restricts the movement of people who were exposed to a contagious disease to see if they become sick.

How long is isolation and quarantine?

How long a person who is diagnosed with COVID-19 needs to be in isolation is determined by when their symptoms, if any, resolve. WDH follows CDC recommendations to release a person with COVID-19 from isolation when at least 3 days (72 hours) have passed since resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications AND there has been improvement in respiratory symptoms AND at least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared.

In some situations, we use testing to determine when someone may be released from isolation. When COVID-19 testing is used, a person needs to have two negative COVID-19 tests taken at least 24 hours apart. Persons who are asymptomatic and never develop symptoms can be released from isolation when at least 10 days have passed since their first positive COVID-19 test.

Quarantine lasts for 14 days from the last time the person was exposed to a person with infectious COVID-19. Quarantine lasts for 14 days even if the person tests negative at some point during the 14 days, because it can take up to 14 days for a person to become ill after being exposed to COVID-19.

More resources from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for schools and child care programs can be found at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/index.html>.

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

