

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

---

September 14, 2020

## Background

Public health orders continue and are modified periodically. All orders are designed to limit the spread of the COVID-19 virus. Key definitions and order provisions are contained in each order. Questions regarding enforcement and interpretation of orders should be directed to your County Public Health Offices.

Current orders do not specifically address afterschool programs (Afterschool). This document provides recommendations and guidelines from the Wyoming Department of Health for the operation of Afterschool programs during the COVID-19 outbreak, in coordination with school and other childcare facilities. While much of the guidance provided is similar to that of educational institutions and summer camps, this guidance seeks to address challenges that are unique to the Afterschool environment.

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 Afterschool providers who provide service during the COVID-19 outbreak:

### Student Arrival

1. School district transportation requirements call for maximizing social distancing, use of face coverings, and appropriate hygiene measures, as well as enhanced sanitation measures. When students arrive at the Afterschool facility via school bus, students should be directed to wash their hands for 20 seconds with soap and water upon arrival.
2. If a student arrives by foot or via parent/guardian transportation, they should also be directed to wash their hands before participating in activities.
3. For guidance regarding transportation, please refer to the Wyoming Department of Education [Smart Start Guidance](#) and individual school district reopening plans.
4. Per the Wyoming Department of Education [Smart Start Guidance](#) for schools, parents should screen their children daily for symptoms of COVID-19 before sending their children to school. Afterschool programs may choose to implement student screening upon arrival. Stagger arrival and drop-off times to the extent practicable OR establish other protocols to limit direct contact with adults who are dropping students off.

### Physical Distancing

1. Afterschool programs should operate following standard rules and regulations regarding class size, with the following considerations:
  - a. WDH recommends limiting group size as much as possible to reduce exposure in the case of a positive COVID-19 case in the group.
  - b. WDH also recommends using outdoor space for activities to allow for physical distancing, to the extent practical given space and weather conditions.
2. Whenever possible, staff and students should maintain physical distance of at least 6 feet.
  - a. If physical distancing is not possible, staff and students should wear a face covering. If the Afterschool program is taking place in a K-12 school building, provisions from public health orders related to K-12

should be followed. Afterschool programs not taking place in K-12 school buildings are encouraged to follow school-related provisions to the greatest extent possible.

3. The WDH recommends that children and staff in different Afterschool classrooms do not mix or interact to the extent practicable in order to reduce the numbers of children and staff exposed in the case of a COVID-19 case in the facility.
  - a. Additionally, the Afterschool staff should, to the extent feasible, group students from the same school (or small group of schools in close geographic proximity) into Afterschool classrooms.
4. Keep students' belongings separated and avoid sharing electronic devices, books, supplies, and other learning aids.
5. Field trips are not recommended.
6. Serve individually plated meals, snacks, and beverages to limit food/utensil sharing among students.
7. Provide water sources other than water fountains if possible. If not possible, have students bring their own water bottle or provide bottled water.
8. Limit non-essential volunteers, visitors, and activities involving other groups.

## Operations

1. Afterschool providers should implement enhanced sanitation and hygiene, including washing hands upon arrival and frequently throughout the duration of program services 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.**
  - a. **Students and staff should be encouraged to cough and sneeze into their elbow.**
2. Afterschool providers should engage in frequent and thorough cleaning daily of high touch surfaces (e.g. door knobs, 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). **All cleaning products should be kept out of reach of students.**
3. Afterschool providers should ensure that staff and essential volunteers are screened for symptoms of COVID-19 at the beginning of their shift. Symptomatic individuals should not be allowed to enter the facility. See screening guidance [here](#).
  - a. **Staff/volunteers who have symptoms or report feeling sick must be sent home.**
4. The Afterschool provider should maintain a record of staff working hours by date and time for purposes of contact tracing. If recordkeeping is done manually, sanitizing measures should be taken on the instruments used for recordkeeping between use.
5. In the event of a confirmed case within the facility, the Afterschool provider should consult with health officials on next steps. The facility may need to be closed temporarily if determined necessary by health officials
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 an Afterschool provider observes symptoms in a child, the child should be sent home.**
  - a. **While a child is waiting to be picked up, they should be separated from other students and staff and wear a face covering, even if physical distancing is possible.**
7. 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](#).
8. To the extent practicable, air circulation systems should be adjusted to allow for more fresh air into the program space. This could include opening doors and windows to the extent that it is safe to do so (i.e., it doesn't pose an injury or other threat to the students).

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](http://health.wyo.gov) or [cdc.gov](http://cdc.gov).

