

# Child Care and COVID-19



## Returning your child to care

*Ready to return to work? This checklist can help you ensure steps are in place to keep your child safe while you are away.*

### Start at Home

- Has anyone in your home tested positive for COVID-19? If so, everyone living in the home, including your child, should remain home at least 14 days from the start of the positive person's symptoms.
- Does your child have a fever at or above 100.4°, symptoms like cough, shortness of breath, or other signs of illness? Please keep your child home for at least 24 hours after the fever and symptoms have stopped and consult your healthcare provider.

### What to Ask Your Child Care Provider...

#### What steps are you taking

- ...to ensure the health and safety of children in your care?
- ...to meet children's developmental, social, and emotional needs?
- ...to communicate with families and staff?

#### Details to ask about include...

- What are your arrival and pick up procedures?
- How do you check children, staff, and visitors for illness?
- How do you notify families of health problems?
- Do groups of children stay together in small groups each day with the same teacher to help minimize contact?
- How do you handle physical distancing? During meals, nap time, in the classroom, and on the playground?
- How are meals served?
- How do you limit the use of shared toys and materials?
- How are you cleaning the classrooms, toys, and materials?
- What happens if my child becomes sick during the day? How am I notified?
- What happens if someone tests positive for COVID-19 at the site?
- What is your policy on masks for staff, children, and visitors?

### Steps You May See...

#### Drop Off and Pick Up

You may have a specific time frame to drop off and pick up your child. Arrival and pick up may now take place at the front door or outside to limit the number of people in the center.

A provider may greet you, escort your child to their classroom, and bring them back to you at the end of the day. Hand sanitizer and clean pens should be available for sign-in with six feet spaces marked to keep families six feet apart.

## Daily Health Check

When you arrive, the provider may check your child's temperature, ask questions about your child's health, and visually look for signs of illness. Anyone with signs of illness or who has had close contact to someone with COVID-19 should not be admitted. Posters with information on signs and symptoms of COVID-19 will be posted. Children should wash hands after entering the facility.

## Physical Distancing

The same children will be together each day with the same provider. Classroom sizes may be reduced to make sure children can keep distance from each other. During nap times, meal times, and seated activities, children will be kept six feet apart. Playgrounds may be zoned by classrooms or equipment cleaned between use by different groups.

## Materials and Equipment

Children may have individual, labeled supplies such as crayons, play-dough, and scissors. Windows may be kept open to increase outdoor air. Meals may be plated individually by the providers to avoid sharing serving utensils.

## Sanitizing and Cleaning

Providers are intensifying their cleaning practices by cleaning and disinfecting high touch surfaces such as door-knobs frequently throughout the day. Toys and materials that cannot be cleaned should not be used. Personal items from home may be limited or not allowed. Providers may set aside used toys and materials for cleaning before they can be used by other children. Providers and children will wash hands often throughout the day.

## Fever, Symptom Free, and Potential Exposure Policies

In order for children to attend child care, there may be more rigorous health policies in place. Your child should not attend child care if they have been in close contact with anyone who has had COVID-19 or if they have any signs or symptoms of illness. The center should have procedures for what will happen if there is a potential exposure to COVID-19 at the site.

## Personal Safety Equipment

Staff will be wearing cloth facial coverings when they greet your family and in the classrooms. This is also recommended for children five and over. You may be asked to provide cloth facial coverings for your child and to wear one when you drop off and pick up your child.



## Searching for Childcare?

Contact the **CCR&R Child Care Information Line at 1-800-308-9000**

Monday - Friday 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. • Saturday 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.  
24 hour online search available at [www.azccrr.com](http://www.azccrr.com)

*CCR&R is Arizona's statewide child care consumer education program designed to assist anyone searching for child care with information, tools, resources, and support to help make an informed child care choice.*