



Dear Childcare/Daycare providers,

Defiance County General Health District (DCGHD) is closely monitoring Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19). New Orders signed by Ohio Department of Health Director, Dr. Amy Acton, have required businesses to operate under specific mandates and best practices. Businesses shall follow these minimum level, sector specific requirements during operations.

DCGHD will be responsible for educating the specific sectors specific on the Responsible Restart Ohio guidelines, and will respond to concerns from employees and the public. The impact of COVID-19 has caused unprecedented challenges for business owners.

-) The business sector specific guidance can be found at:
<https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/responsiblerestartohio>
-) Ohio Department of Health: <https://coronavirus.ohio.gov>
-) County Updates, DCGHD: <https://defiancecohealth.org/coronavirus>
-) Centers of Disease Control and Prevention: <https://cdc.gov/coronavirus>

Please feel free to share this information with others. If you have any questions please contact us at Defiance County Health Department, 419-784-3818 or call the Ohio Department of Health COVID-19 call center at 1-833-427-5634.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jamie R. Gerken".

Jamie Gerken

Health Commissioner, Defiance County Health Department

Responsible RestartOhio



Child Care

Mandatory

- Child care providers must operate under reduced staff to child ratios and maximum group size limitations at all times.
 - One child care staff member per four infants with no more than six children in the room.
 - One child care staff member per six toddlers with no more than six children in the room.
 - One child care staff member per nine preschool children with no more than nine children in the room.
 - One child care staff member per nine school-age children with no more than nine children in the room.
- Employees must perform daily symptom assessment.*
- Require employees to stay home if symptomatic.

Recommended Best Practices

- Child care workers should wear a cloth face covering, unless it is unsafe for them to do so.
 - Cloth face coverings should not be worn if the person has trouble breathing, is unconscious, is incapacitated, or they are unable to remove the mask without assistance.

At Drop-Off

- Child care providers must ensure that children wash their hands upon entering their classroom. This may require providers to assist children with handwashing.
- Child care providers must check the temperatures of all staff, children, and adults upon arrival. If any individual has a fever of 100 degrees or higher, they may not enter the facility.

- Providers should modify pick-up and drop-off to ensure social distancing.
 - Providers may stagger drop-off and pick-up times to reduce contact between families.
 - Parent or caretaker should, when safe to do so, wear a mask for pick-up and drop-off.
 - The same parent or caretaker should conduct pick-up and drop-off each day.
 - Providers should conduct "curbside" pick up and drop-off where possible.
 - A single employee should operate child pick-up and drop-off, escorting all children to and from their classroom.
- Child care providers should limit parent and visitor entry into the facility.

During the Day

- Child care workers must follow rigorous handwashing procedures as detailed in Appendix B to Ohio Administrative Code 5101:2-12-13.
 - Upon arrival for the day, after breaks and upon returning from outside.
 - After toileting or assisting a child with toileting.
 - After each diaper change or pull-up change.
 - After contact with bodily fluids or cleaning up spills or objects contaminated with bodily fluids.
 - After cleaning or sanitizing or using any chemical products.
 - After handling pets, pet cages or other pet objects that have come in contact with the pet.
 - Before eating, serving or preparing food or bottles or feeding a child.
 - Before and after completing a medical procedure or administering medication.
 - When visibly soiled (must use soap and water).
 - Prior to departure.
- Child care attendees must follow rigorous handwashing procedures as detailed in Appendix B to Ohio Administrative Code 5101:2-12-13.
 - Upon arrival for the day.
 - After toileting/diaper change.
 - After contact with bodily fluids.
 - After returning inside after outdoor play.

- Child care providers should cancel all field trips, excursions, and large-group events such as parties.
- Child care providers should, to the extent possible, prevent groups from mixing.
 - Children of the same employer, to the extent possible, should be in the same group.
 - Teachers should remain with their group throughout the day.
 - Support staff should only serve one group of children and should not "float" from room to room.
- Child care providers should stagger the use of any communal space, such as playgrounds, lunchrooms, and bathrooms. Providers should sanitize communal spaces between each group of children.
- When temporary dividers are used, child care providers should ensure that groups do not mix.
 - Providers should use different entrance/exits for each group of students.
 - Providers should use separate sinks for each group of kids.
 - To the extent possible, providers should use different bathrooms for each group.
- Child care providers should sanitize toys after each use and remove toys that cannot be sanitized.

* Per the CDC, symptoms include cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, fever, chills, repeated shaking with chills, muscle pain, headaches, sore throat, and new loss of taste or smell

Mandatory

During the Day *cont.*

- After handling pets, pet cages or other pet objects that have come in contact with the pet before moving on to another activity.
- Before eating or assisting with food preparation.
- After water activities.
- When visibly soiled (must use soap and water).
- Prior to departure.
- Child care providers may use non-permanent sinks to meet handwashing requirements.
- Child care providers must immediately send home any child or employee who has a temperature of 100 degrees or higher. This individual may not return until they are fever free for 24 hours, without the use of fever-reducing medication. If the individual has had contact with someone confirmed or probable to have COVID-19, he or she must complete isolation or quarantine procedures in coordination with the local health department prior to returning to the program.

At Pick-Up

- Child care providers must ensure that children wash their hands prior to departure. This may require providers to assist children with handwashing.

Physical Environment

- Child care providers may use temporary walls to divide a room into smaller spaces to serve multiple groups, under limited circumstances.
 - The smaller space must contain at least 35 square feet of space per child.
 - The divider must be at least six feet in height.
 - The divider must be made from nonporous material or other material that can be sanitized.
 - The divider must meet any requirements set by the Department of Commerce, local building department, state fire marshal, or local fire safety inspector.

Confirmed Cases

- Child care providers may use temporary walls to divide a room into smaller spaces to serve multiple groups, under limited circumstances.
- Immediately isolate and seek medical care for any individual who develops symptoms while at the day care facility.
- Shutdown rooms for deep sanitation, if possible.
- Child care providers should immediately notify the Department of Job and Family Services in writing of any confirmed cases of COVID-19 among children or staff.

Recommended Best Practices

- Child care providers should wear gloves while serving food and preparing bottles.
 - Gloves should be changed between bottle feedings.
- Providers should modify pick-up and drop-off to ensure social distancing.
 - Providers may stagger drop-off and pick-up times to reduce contact between families.
 - Caregiver should, when safe to do so, should wear a mask for pick-up and drop-off.
 - Providers should conduct "curbside" pick up and drop-off.
 - A single employee should operate child pick-up and drop-off, escorting all children to and from their classroom.



What Parents Should Know About Sending Children Back to Child Care

Governor DeWine announced that Ohio's child care providers may reopen on May 31st. To keep children, their families, and teachers safe, child care providers must operate under reduced ratios and follow strict cleaning and handwashing protocols. The Department of Job and Family Services also recommends that child care providers do the following:

- Use "curbside" drop-off and pick-up when possible.
- Have a dedicated staff person escort your child into and out of their child care facility each day.
- Wash children's hands upon arrival and before departure.
- Have adults wear masks.
- Limit mixing of classrooms.
- Sanitize toys after each use and remove toys that cannot be sanitized.
- Stagger the use of communal spaces, such as playgrounds and lunchrooms, until they can be sanitized.

Collectively, these best practices will help child care centers safely serve children and families that need care.

If you are considering taking your child to child care, here is what you should know.

- Child care providers must operate under very strict cleaning and handwashing protocols. These protocols will help make child care safe for your child.
- Child care providers are limited in the number of children they can serve. If you can stay home with your child, please do so. This will help keep limited child care spots available for families that have no other child care options.
- Children run fevers for many reasons, such as teething or colds. If your child is running a fever of 100 degrees or more, do not take them to child care. Your child should stay home for at least 24 hours after their fever subsides.
- Watch for symptoms of COVID-19, such as sore throat, cough, fever, headache, runny nose, and difficulty breathing. If your child is exhibiting any of these symptoms, contact your pediatrician and keep your child home from child care.

- If your child has been in contact with someone who is suspected of having COVID-19 or has tested positive for COVID-19, you should quarantine for 14 days.
- If your child has tested positive for COVID-19, they should not return to child care for at least seven days since the onset of symptoms and at least three days without a fever, without the help of fever-reducing medicines, such as ibuprofen or acetaminophen.

Your child may notice changes to their normal child care routine. It is important to talk to your child about how they are feeling. For tips on how to talk to your child about COVID-19, please visit <https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/covid-19/checklists/english-checklists/talking-to-kids-covid-19-checklist>.

For additional information, visit coronavirus.ohio.gov.

For answers to your COVID-19 questions, call 1-833-4-ASK-ODH (1-833-427-5634).

Your mental health is just as important as your physical health. If you or a loved one are experiencing anxiety related to the coronavirus pandemic, help is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Call the COVID-19 CareLine at 1-800-720-9616.

CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019

Protect yourself and others from COVID-19 by taking these precautions.

PREVENTION

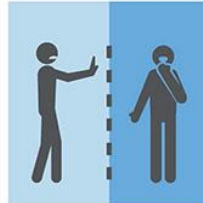
For additional information call 1-833-4-ASK-ODH or visit coronavirus.ohio.gov.



STAY HOME EXCEPT FOR WORK AND OTHER NEEDS



WEAR A FACE COVERING WHEN GOING OUT



PRACTICE SOCIAL DISTANCING OF AT LEAST 6 FEET FROM OTHERS



SHOP AT NON-PEAK HOURS



WASH HANDS OFTEN WITH WATER AND SOAP (20 SECONDS OR LONGER)



AVOID TOUCHING YOUR EYES, NOSE, OR MOUTH WITH UNWASHED HANDS OR AFTER TOUCHING SURFACES



COVER YOUR MOUTH WITH A TISSUE OR SLEEVE WHEN COUGHING OR SNEEZING



CLEAN AND DISINFECT "HIGH-TOUCH" SURFACES OFTEN



DON'T WORK WHEN SICK



CALL BEFORE VISITING YOUR DOCTOR