



(re)LAUNCH CHURCH

(re)considering church
in a covid-19 world



HEALTH & SAFETY GUIDELINES FOR PRESCHOOLS

Guidelines for Mountain Sky Conference Preschool Programs

The following are the guidelines for the operation of church-related preschools during the COVID-19 pandemic. Please provide the crisis team with any feedback you may have that may improve these guidelines' efficiency of implementation or increase safety for children and staff.

Childcare programs that remain open during the COVID-19 pandemic must address these additional considerations:

- Implement social distancing strategies.
- Intensify cleaning and disinfection efforts.
- Modify drop off and pick up procedures.
- Implement screening procedures upon arrival.
- Maintain an adequate ratio of staff to children to ensure safety.
 - Plan and recruit those with childcare experience to ensure you have a roster of substitute caregivers who can fill in if your staff members are sick or stay home to care for sick family members.
- When feasible, staff members and older children should wear face coverings within the facility. Cloth face coverings should NOT be put on babies and children under age two because of the danger of suffocation. Face shields are not preferred but may be an alternative face covering for young children who have trouble keeping masks in place. Also, masks should not be required on sleeping children.

Social Distancing Strategies

Work with your local health officials to determine a set of strategies appropriate for your community's situation. Continue using preparedness strategies and consider the following social distancing strategies:

- If possible, childcare classes should include the same group each day, and the same child care providers should remain with the same group each day. Consider creating a separate classroom or group for the children of healthcare workers and other first responders. If your program is unable to create a separate classroom, consider serving only the children of healthcare workers and first responders.
- Cancel or postpone special schoolwide events such as festivals, holiday events, and special performances. For smaller group celebrations such as birthdays, find ways to celebrate that follow the social distancing guidelines.
- Consider whether to alter or halt daily group activities that may promote transmission.
 - Keep each group of children in a separate room.
 - Limit the mixing of children, such as staggering playground times and keeping groups separate for special activities such as art, music, and exercising.
 - If possible, at nap time, ensure that children's naptime mats (or cribs) are spaced out as much as possible, ideally 6 feet apart. Consider placing children head to toe in order to further reduce the potential for viral spread.

- Consider staggering arrival and drop off times and/or have childcare providers come outside the facility to pick up the children as they arrive. Your plan for curb side drop off and pick up should limit direct contact between parents and staff members and adhere to social distancing recommendations.
- If possible, arrange for administrative staff to telework from their homes.

Parent Drop-off and Pick-up

- Hand hygiene stations should be set up at the entrance of the facility, so that children can clean their hands before they enter. If a sink with soap and water is not available, provide hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol next to parent sign-in sheets. Keep hand sanitizer out of children's reach and supervise use. If possible, place sign-in stations outside, and provide sanitary wipes for cleaning pens between each use.
- Consider staggering arrival and drop off times and plan to limit direct contact with parents as much as possible.
 - Have child care providers greet children outside as they arrive.
 - Designate a parent to be the drop off/pick up volunteer to walk all children to their classroom, and at the end of the day, walk all children back to their cars.
 - Infants could be transported in their car seats. Store car seat out of children's reach.
- Ideally, the same parent or designated person should drop off and pick up the child every day. If possible, older people such as grandparents or those with serious underlying medical conditions should not pick up children, because they are more at risk for [severe illness from COVID-19](#).

Screen Children Upon Arrival

Persons who have a fever of 100.4⁰ (38.0⁰C) or above or other signs of illness should not be admitted to the facility. Encourage parents to be on the alert for signs of illness in their children and to keep them home when they are sick. Screen children upon arrival, if possible.

There are several methods that facilities can use to protect their workers while conducting temperature screenings. The most protective methods incorporate social distancing (maintaining a distance of 6 feet from others) or physical barriers to eliminate or minimize exposures due to close contact to a child who has symptoms during screening.

Examples of Screening Methods from the CDC

Reliance on Social Distancing

- Ask parents/guardians to take their child's temperature either before coming to the facility or upon arrival at the facility. Upon their arrival, stand at least 6 feet away from the parent/guardian and child.
- Ask the parent/guardian to confirm that the child does not have fever, shortness of breath or cough.

- Make a visual inspection of the child for signs of illness which could include flushed cheeks, rapid breathing or difficulty breathing (without recent physical activity), fatigue, or extreme fussiness.

You do not need to wear personal protective equipment (PPE) if you can maintain a distance of 6 feet.

Reliance on Barrier/Partition Controls

- Stand behind a physical barrier, such as a glass or plastic window or partition that can serve to protect the staff member's face and mucous membranes from respiratory droplets that may be produced if the child being screened sneezes, coughs, or talks.
- Make a visual inspection of the child for signs of illness, which could include flushed cheeks, rapid breathing or difficulty breathing (without recent physical activity), fatigue, or extreme fussiness.
- Conduct temperature screening (follow steps below)
 - Perform hand hygiene
 - Wash your hands with soap and water for 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use a hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.
- Put on disposable gloves.
- Check the child's temperature, reaching around the partition or through the window.
- Always make sure your face stays behind the barrier during the screening.
- If performing a **temperature check on multiple individuals**, ensure that you use a **clean pair of gloves for each child** and that the **thermometer has been thoroughly cleaned** in between each check.
- If you use disposable or non-contact (temporal) thermometers and you did not have physical contact with the child, you do not need to change gloves before the next check.
- If you use non-contact thermometers, clean them with an alcohol wipe (or isopropyl alcohol on a cotton swab) between each client. You can reuse the same wipe as long as it remains wet.

Reliance on Personal Protective Equipment (example 3)

If social distancing or barrier/partition controls cannot be implemented during screening, personal protective equipment (PPE) can be used when within 6 feet of a child.

However, **reliance on PPE alone is a less effective control and more difficult to implement, given PPE shortages and training requirements.**

- Upon arrival, wash your hands and put on a facemask, eye protection (goggles or disposable face shield that fully covers the front and sides of the face), and a single pair of disposable gloves. A gown could be considered if extensive contact with a child is anticipated.
- Make a visual inspection of the child for signs of illness, which could include flushed cheeks, rapid breathing or difficulty breathing (without recent physical activity), fatigue, or extreme fussiness, and confirm that the child is not experiencing coughing or shortness of breath.

- Take the child's temperature.
 - If performing a **temperature check on multiple individuals**, ensure that you use a **clean pair of gloves for each child** and that the **thermometer has been thoroughly cleaned** in between each check.
 - If you use disposable or non-contact (temporal) thermometers and did not have physical contact with an individual, you do not need to change gloves before the next check.
 - If you use non-contact thermometers, clean them with an alcohol wipe (or isopropyl alcohol on a cotton swab) between each client. You can reuse the same wipe as long as it remains wet.
- After each screening, remove and discard PPE, and wash hands.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol or wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- If hands are visibly soiled, soap and water should be used before using alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- If your staff does not have experience in using PPE:
 - Check to see if your facility has guidance on how to don and doff PPE. The procedure to don and doff should be tailored to the specific type of PPE that you have available at your facility.
 - If your facility does not have specific guidance, the CDC has recommended sequences for donning and doffing.

Intensify cleaning and disinfection efforts:

- Facilities should develop a schedule for cleaning and disinfecting.
- Routinely clean, sanitize, and disinfect surfaces and objects that are frequently touched, especially toys and games. This may also include cleaning objects/surfaces not ordinarily cleaned daily such as doorknobs, light switches, classroom sink handles, countertops, nap pads, toilet training potties, desks, chairs, cubbies, and playground structures. Use the cleaners typically used at your facility. Guidance is available for the selection of appropriate sanitizers or disinfectants for childcare settings.
- Use all cleaning products according to the directions on the label. For disinfection, most common EPA-registered, fragrance-free household disinfectants should be effective. A list of products that are EPA-approved for use against the virus that causes COVID-19 is available. If surfaces are dirty, they should be cleaned using a detergent or soap and water prior to disinfection. Follow the manufacturer's instructions for concentration, application method, and contact time for all cleaning and disinfection products.
- If possible, provide EPA-registered disposable wipes to childcare providers and other staff members so that commonly used surfaces such as keyboards, desks, and remote controls can be wiped down before use. If wipes are not available, please refer to CDC's guidance on disinfection for community settings.
- All cleaning materials should be kept secure and out of reach of children.
- Cleaning products should not be used near children, and staff should ensure that there is adequate ventilation when using these products to prevent children from inhaling toxic fumes.

- **Cleaning Staff and Volunteers.** All custodial staff and any such volunteers shall follow appropriate guidelines. Guidelines are available at <https://covid19.colorado.gov/cleaning-guidance>.
- **Sanitation Protocols for General Cleaning of Buildings.** Bathrooms are cleaned and disinfected regularly (at least daily when people are in the building).
- **Acquisition of Cleaning Supplies & Tools.** Staff will ensure supplies and tools are available. A list of disinfectants approved by the U.S.E.P.A. are available at [https://www.denvergov.org/content/dam/denvergov/Portals/covid19/documents/COVID-19%20disinfectants%20\(1-page\).pdf](https://www.denvergov.org/content/dam/denvergov/Portals/covid19/documents/COVID-19%20disinfectants%20(1-page).pdf).

Clean and Disinfect Bedding

- Use bedding (sheets, pillows, blankets, sleeping bags) that can be washed. Keep each child's bedding separate, and consider storing in individually labeled bins, cubbies, or bags. Cots and mats should be labeled for each child. Bedding that touches a child's skin should be cleaned weekly or before use by another child.

Healthy Hand Hygiene Behavior

- All children, staff, and volunteers should engage in hand hygiene at the following times:
 - Arrival to the facility and after breaks
 - Before and after preparing food or drinks
 - Before and after eating or handling food, or feeding children
 - Before and after administering medication or medical ointment
 - Before and after diapering
 - After using the toilet or helping a child use the bathroom
 - After coming in contact with bodily fluid
 - After handling animals or cleaning up animal waste
 - After playing outdoors or in sand
 - After handling garbage
- Wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If hands are not visibly dirty, alcohol-based hand sanitizers with at least 60% alcohol can be used if soap and water are not readily available.
- Supervise children when they use hand sanitizer to prevent ingestion.
- Assist children with handwashing, including infants who cannot wash hands alone.
 - After assisting children with handwashing, staff should also wash their hands.
- Place [posters](#) describing handwashing steps near sinks. Developmentally appropriate posters in multiple languages are available from CDC.

Food Preparation and Meal Service

- If a cafeteria or group dining room is typically used, serve meals in classrooms instead. If meals are typically served family-style, plate each child's meal to serve it so that multiple children are not using the same serving utensils.
- Food preparation should not be done by the same staff that diapers children. Note: Preferably? If staff follows sanitation guidelines, this need not be a guideline. Furthermore many smaller preschools do not have enough staff that some could be designated to be diaper changers and others to be food preparers.
- Sinks used for food preparation should not be used for any other purposes.
- Caregivers should ensure children wash hands prior to and immediately after eating.
- Caregivers should wash their hands before preparing food and after helping children to eat.

Facilities should follow all other applicable federal, state, and local regulations and related to safe preparation of food.