Welcome!

Lessons from the Field: Guidance for Early Childhood Education Programs and Providers

APRIL 14, 2021

We will be starting at the top of the hour.
Lessons from the Field: Guidance for Early Childhood Education Programs and Providers

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NCSSLE Website

HTTPS://SAFESUPPORTIVELEARNING.ED.GOV
Logistics

Zoom Control Panel

Technical Issues

For assistance during the webinar, please contact Shoshana Rabinovsky at srabinovsky@air.org.

This webinar is being recorded and will be archived at the following location:
1. Are you a:
   - Teacher
   - Program staff
   - Program administrator
   - Education agency staff
   - Public health professional
   - Other (Please specify in the chat.)

2. In your community, are instruction and supports being delivered:
   - In-person
   - Hybrid
   - Virtually
Speakers

Christian Rhodes
Chief of Staff, Office of Elementary and Secondary Education, U.S. Department of Education

Angie Claussen
Research Psychologist, Child Development Studies Team, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Christy Kavulic
Associate Division Director, Early Childhood and Parents Team, U.S. Department of Education

Dori Yorks
Director, Washington County Family Support Center (MD)

Mindy Zapata
Director, Early Head Start and Head Start, Southwest Human Development (AZ)

Bios for the speakers are archived at the following location:
Guidance for Operating Child Care Programs During COVID-19

CDC Community Interventions and Critical Populations Task Force

cdc.gov/coronavirus
Disclaimer

- The information covered in this presentation is not exhaustive.
Prevention Strategies to Reduce Transmission

- All child care programs should use and layer key prevention strategies:
  - Universal and correct use of masks for children 2 years and older
  - Physical distancing
  - Handwashing and respiratory etiquette
  - Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities
  - Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine
  - Avoiding poorly ventilated indoor spaces
  - Cohorting
What's New in the Guidance for Operating Child Care Programs during COVID-19 (updated March 12, 2021)

- Expanded guidance background for what is known about COVID-19 and transmission in child care settings
- Updated guidance with vaccine information
- Updated guidance on ventilation and water systems
- Updated guidance for mask use in child care settings
- Updated guidance for students with special healthcare needs and disabilities
- Guidance for Direct Service Providers

What's New in the Guidance for Operating Child Care Programs During COVID-19 (Cont.)

- Updated guidance on:
  - Cohorting and staggering strategies
  - Communal spaces, food service, playgrounds, and play spaces
  - Recognizing signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and daily health screening

- This CDC guidance is meant to supplement—not replace—any federal, state, tribal, local, or territorial public health and safety laws, rules, and regulations with which child care programs must comply

Vaccination
Vaccination for Child Care Programs

- Important tool to help stop the COVID-19 pandemic
- Child care staff have been prioritized nationally to receive vaccination
- New CDC resources are available to provide information about vaccines for child care staff
- Continue prevention measures even after child care staff are vaccinated

Ventilation
Ventilation

- Increase outdoor air ventilation, using caution in highly polluted areas
- Bring in as much outdoor air as possible (if it’s safe to do so) by
  - Opening windows and doors
  - Using child-safe fans to increase the effectiveness of open windows.
  - Having activities, classes, or lunches outdoors when circumstances allow

Ventilation (Cont.)

- Ensure heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) settings are maximizing ventilation
  - Make sure your ventilation systems are serviced and meeting code requirements
  - Consider running your HVAC system at maximum outside airflow for 2 hours before and after the facility is occupied
- Consider other approaches for reducing the amount of virus particles in the air, such as using air filtration and exhaust fans
- Ventilation considerations are also important on your transport vehicles such as buses or vans. Open windows when safe to do so

Mask use
Mask Wearing for Children and Staff

- People 2 and older should wear a well-fitted mask covering their mouth and nose when around people who do not live in their household, except when eating or sleeping.
- When used consistently and correctly for children and staff, masks are important to help slow the spread of COVID-19.

If you are able, find a mask that is made for children.

If you can’t find a mask made for children, check to be sure the mask fits snugly over the nose and mouth and under the chin.

Do NOT put on children younger than 2 years old.
CDC recognizes there are specific instances when wearing a mask might not be feasible. In these instances, consider adaptations and alternatives.

CDC does not recommend using face shields or goggles as a substitute for masks. Do NOT put a plastic face shield (or a mask) on newborns or infants.

Mask Wearing for Children and Staff (Cont.)

- Certain groups of people might find it difficult to wear a mask including:
  - Some children 2 years and older
  - People of any age with certain disabilities

- When determining if children and people with certain disabilities should wear a mask, assess their ability to:
  - Use a mask correctly
  - Avoid frequent touching of the mask and their face
  - Limit sucking, drooling, or having excess saliva on the mask
  - Remove the mask without assistance
Disabilities and special healthcare needs
Children with Disabilities or Special Needs

- Your child care program should remain accessible for children with disabilities
- Physical distancing and wearing masks can be difficult for young children with disabilities
- Assistance or visual and verbal reminders
- Behavioral techniques can help children adjust to changes in routines
- Allow direct service providers into your facility to provide important services to children
Direct service providers
Guidance for Direct Service Providers

- Direct service providers include direct support professionals, paraprofessionals, therapists, early intervention specialists, and others.
- Allow Direct Service Providers into your facility to provide important services to children.
- Ask direct service providers before they enter your facility if
  - They are experiencing any symptoms of COVID-19
  - Been in contact with someone who might have COVID-19
Cohorting and staggering
Identifying Small Groups and Keeping Them Together (Cohorting)

- If possible, place children and child care staff into distinct groups that stay together from day to day
- Consider whether to change or stop daily group activities that might increase risk of COVID-19 transmission
- Keep each group of children in a separate area (classroom or outdoor area if weather permits)
- Staggering schedule (parent drop-off and pick-up)
Quick guides for facilities
Quick Guide: Help Protect Your Child Care Center from COVID-19

Visual of key prevention strategies in CDC’s Child Care Guidance

Quick Guide: Help Protect Your Family Child Care Home from COVID-19

Visual of key prevention strategies in CDC’s Child Care Guidance

If a child gets sick
Flowcharts: If a Child Gets Sick

- What do I Do If a Child Becomes Sick or Receives a New COVID-19 Diagnosis at Child Care?

- Series of 2 printable flowcharts for
  - Child care centers
  - Family child care homes

What Do I Do If a Child Is Showing Signs of COVID-19 at Child Care?

Series of 2 printable quick guides for
- Child care staff
- Parents, guardians, and caregivers

Conclusion
In Conclusion

- Many child care programs have implemented prevention strategies to be able to operate safely.
- This guidance document presents a pathway to programs and helps them remain open through consistent use of prevention strategies.
Schools and Child Care Programs Website

For access to CDC's full suite of materials and resources for K-12 settings, please see Schools and Child Care Programs:

Panel Discussion

LESSONS FROM THE FIELD
Participant Questions and Answers
3. Select the topic(s) for which you feel additional information is needed. (Select all that apply.)

- Consistent implementation of layered mitigation strategies to reduce transmission of SARS-CoV-2 in schools
- Indicators of community transmission to reflect level of community risk
- Phased mitigation and learning modes based on levels of community transmission
- Testing to identify individuals with SARS-CoV-2 infection to limit transmission and outbreaks
- Vaccination for teachers and school staff, and in communities, as soon as supply allows
Feedback Form

HTTPS://WWW.SURVEYMONKEY.COM/R/LFTF_SESSION2
Thank You!

Should you have any questions, please contact us at NCSSLE@air.org or 800-258-8413. We are happy to help!

NCSSLE Website
https://safesupportivelearning.ed.gov

Best Practices Clearinghouse
https://bestpracticesclearinghouse.ed.gov/