



Interim Guidance for Childcare Facilities to Prevent the Spread of COVID-19

It takes everyone's cooperation to effectively manage the spread of COVID-19 in Hawai'i. The Hawai'i Department of Health has issued the following recommendations to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in childcare facilities. The situation in Hawai'i is rapidly evolving and these guidelines will be updated as new information becomes available.

COVID-19 is spread mainly person-to-person between people who are in close contact; through respiratory droplets when an infected person coughs or sneezes; or through surfaces that may have been touched or used by an infected person.

Recommendations for childcare facilities:

- Review, update, and implement emergency operations plans
- Establish procedures for children and staff who are sick:
 - Children and staff should stay home if sick
 - If children or staff become sick during the program day, isolate sick individuals in another room until departure
- Implement social distancing measures:
 - Limit non-essential visitors
 - Postpone or cancel any event (i.e., performances, graduations, etc.) for which a distance of 6 feet (or 2 arms-length) between persons cannot be maintained
 - Consider larger spaces between children during circle time and during other shared activities
 - Consider rotation of small groups in common areas (i.e., playgrounds)
- Teach and reinforce healthy hygiene practices:
 - Provide access to water and soap or hand sanitizers with at least 60% alcohol (note: keep hand sanitizers and cleaning products out of reach of young children and supervise them when using hand sanitizers)
 - Ensure staff practice good hand hygiene and teach children to wash their hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after blowing their nose, coughing, or sneezing; going to the bathroom; and before eating or preparing food
 - Discourage sharing of cups, utensils, and plates, etc.
- Intensify cleaning and disinfection efforts:
 - Routinely clean all high touch surfaces (e.g., doorknobs, keyboards, counters, phones, toys, etc.)
 - Clean and sanitize meal preparation and eating areas after use and throughout the day
- Communicate with staff, parents, and children:
 - Communicate with parents and staff on your procedures for cleaning and disinfecting, what to do if a child is ill, and on your emergency operations plans
 - Give children information that is appropriate for the age and developmental level of the child

Resources:

- CDC Interim Guidance for Administrators of U.S. K-12 Schools and Childcare Programs
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/guidance-for-schools.html>
- Talking with Children about COVID-19 <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/talking-with-children.html>
- Environmental Cleaning and Disinfection Recommendations
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/organizations/cleaning-disinfection.html>

For more information, please visit HDOH's Coronavirus Disease 2019 webpage at:

HawaiiCOVID19.com

or the CDC's Coronavirus Disease 2019 website at:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>