

The Vermont Department of Health recently released guidance for child care and school age camps/care that plan on operating in the summer of 2020 during the COVID-19 pandemic. This guidance and other resources can be found on the Department's website healthvermont.gov/covid.

The following is a brief description of what you may see at your child care or school age program. The following guidelines support programs to stay open and **provide a safe, healthy, and fun place for your children to grow, learn, and play**. For more information, please talk to your child care or school age program.

Children Able to Attend

Healthy children and children with the following symptoms **may attend** child care and school age programs:

- Allergy symptoms, without a fever that cause coughing and *clear runny nose* may stay if they have medically diagnosed allergies and follow any medical treatment plans
- Tested negative for COVID-19, no fever for 72 hours and no symptoms of illness listed below

Children Who May Not Attend

Children **may not attend** when they are:

- Have been in close contact with someone with COVID-19 in the last 14 days
- Have symptoms, been tested for COVID, and are awaiting results
- At high risk due to underlying health conditions
- Sick for any reason

Children also **may not attend** if they are experiencing any of the following:

- A cough, fever, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, chills, repeated shaking with chills, muscle pain, headache, sore throat, or new loss of taste or smell
 - Large amounts of discolored nasal discharge
 - Fever (temperature higher than 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit)
 - Severe ear pain
 - Severe sore throat that lasts more than 48 hours, especially with a fever
 - Uncontrolled cough
 - A significant rash, particularly when other symptoms are present
 - Diarrhea
 - Vomiting
 - Severe headache, especially with a fever
 - Other signs of illness
- If symptoms begin while at the child care or school age camp/care, the child **will be sent home immediately**
- Individuals with a temperature greater than 100.4 F will be sent home until they have had no fever for 72 hours without the use of fever-reducing medications (e.g., ibuprofen (Advil) or acetaminophen (Tylenol))

Drop Off/Pick Up

Your child care or school age program may have drop off or pick up procedures based on the health guidance, including:

- **Daily Health Check** for the children and staff attending care (screening questions: contact with COVID-19 case and symptoms and temperature check)
- New **drop-off and pick-up procedures** (set arrival times and request for the same parent or designated person to drop off and pick up every day)
- **Handwashing** upon entry of all individuals entering the program, including adults

Cloth Facial Coverings for Children: Recommended not required

- Children under 2-years-old should not wear a cloth facial covering
- Help your children to understand the importance of wearing cloth facial coverings to prevent the spread of germs
- Cloth facial coverings are developmentally appropriate for children when they can properly put on, take off, and not touch or suck on the covering
- Children with medical reason for not wearing a cloth facial covering must not wear one
- Children should not wear a cloth facial covering while sleeping, eating, swimming, or other times when they would get wet
- Cloth facial coverings can be removed during outdoor activities where children and staff can maintain physical distancing; they need to have ready access to put them back as needed when activity stops

During the Day

Your child care and school age program will be doing more during the day to keep your children safe including:

- **Staff will be wearing cloth facial coverings all day**
- Frequent thorough cleaning each day
- Small groups of no more than 25 individuals per classroom—staff and children
- Children are separated into classrooms and do not share common places
- No combined group activities
- No outside visitors and volunteers
- Staff should remain with the same group each day
- Frequent handwashing throughout the day with soap and water for at least 20 seconds
- Toys that cannot be cleaned and sanitized will not be used

Resources

- Vermont Department of Health: healthvermont.gov/covid
- Let's Grow Kids: letsgrowkids.org/coronavirus
- Child Care Aware: info.childcareaware.org/coronavirus-hub/families
- Healthy Children/AAP Parenting Website: healthychildren.org/