



COVID-19 Day Care Resource

The Next Three Seconds Protects Your Life, Your Loved Ones, Your Livelihood®

The N3L3 philosophy:

our approach to protecting workers from fatal and life-changing events.

Eastern Alliance is here to help. To learn more about Eastern's N3L3 program and access other safety resources, sign in and visit the Safety Tools on www.easternalliance.com, or contact your Risk Management Consultant for assistance

1.855.533.3444

Eastern Alliance continues to actively monitor the global COVID-19 situation and implement practices to promote the health and safety for all. As we all venture through this time we are dedicated to helping our valued policyholders effectively manage their risks as they adapt to changing environments.

In an attempt to slow the spread of COVID-19 across the country, schools have been temporarily closed. When the schools closed, this left a large number of individuals without care for their children, while they are at work. Though temporary, employees are still having an issue finding child care, which is causing businesses to react by offering daycare services. For some businesses, this may be an existing operation. Other companies, that have never offered these types of services, are taking on a long list of new exposures. Although this daycare service may be a temporary solution, it is important that these new exposures are identified, discussed with employees, and controlled. This resource includes best practices and information for child care services dealing with COVID-19 exposures, along with the suggestions that CDC has posted.

COVID-19 Day Care Best Practices

- Be sure that employees are aware of the signs and symptoms of COVID-19: fever, cough, and shortness of breath. The CDC has stated that children may or may not have any symptoms when infected with the virus. Even though the children may not show any symptoms, they are carriers of the virus and can infect your staff.
- Screen children, parents, and employees outside, before they enter the facility. This screening should include temporal thermometers, and an evaluation to determine if symptoms of COVID-19 are present.
- In addition to evaluating physical symptoms, screeners should advise parents that if the child has been exposed to anyone who has tested positive, or shows signs and symptoms for COVID-19, they should not bring their child to the facility.
- Employees completing screening should wear an appropriate protective facemask (N95 is preferable for airborne particulates, surgical masks will help block large-particle droplets, splashes, sprays, or splatter that may contain germs (viruses and bacteria), keeping it from reaching your mouth and nose), disposable gloves and utilize hand sanitizer before and after each screening.
- Parents should check their children in and out of the facility through a single entrance. This entrance should be blocked for parents to pass any further than the checkout station. Should an adult be carrying any type of virus, this will help minimize the spread to a larger group.
- Many daycares use a computer check-in system where parents sign on to the computer at the front desk to check their child in and out. In light of the coronavirus it is recommended this process is temporarily altered to prevent the spread. Instead of having each parent using the computer to sign in, consider having an employee assigned to the task. The parent can give the name of the child or children they are checking in and the employee will take care of the process on the computer. For pick-up a similar process is used except the parent or person picking up will present their ID to visually confirm (don't touch the ID) the name with the name of approved person in computer.
- Consider separating the children brought to the facility into distinct age groups and limit the number per group to allow for social distancing. This will aid in limiting the spread of germs and viruses. Keeping the children in designated rooms throughout the day is important to minimize contact with other age groups and keeping them safe.



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- Encourage day care staff members to protect their personal health at all times with the use of protective facemasks, social distancing, and intensive handwashing.
- Handwashing is one of the best ways to protect yourself from getting infected. Mandate proper handwashing or the use of hand sanitizer after each physical interaction with a child or another adult.
- Per CDC guidelines, proper handwashing should include: Wet hands with clean running water, apply soap, lather all sides of hands, between fingers, and under your fingernails, scrub hands for at least 20 seconds, rinse hands under clean running water, then dry hands using a clean towel or air dry hands.
- Use hand sanitizer when washing with soap and water is not possible. Be sure to use an alcohol based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol. To use hand sanitizers, apply the gel product to the palm of one hand, rub hands together, rub the gel all over the surfaces of your hands and fingers until hands are dry. This should take about 20 seconds.
- Educate employees on the importance of consistently cleaning surfaces that are frequently touched. Items such as desks, tables, countertops, kitchen areas, electronics/cell phones, light switches, toys, toilets, faucets, and doorknobs.
- Toys used by children in the facility should at the very least be washed daily as per health department guidelines. Any toy seen with dirt or having been inside a child's mouth should be washed immediately. The following cleaning methods have been recommended by the Department of Health guidelines:
Toys should be scrubbed in warm, soapy water using a brush to reach into crevices; rinsed in clean water; submerged in an EPA registered sanitizing solution for at least two minutes or sanitized with another approved sanitizing solution; and air dried.
- Cleaning and disinfecting should be completed with soap/water and diluted household bleach solutions. Household bleach solutions (1/3 cup bleach to one gallon water) will be effective against the COVID-19 virus, but it must be left on the surface for at least 10 minutes to be effective according to the CDC. Employees should wear disposable gloves when performing cleaning/disinfecting tasks.
- Encourage any day care staff to stay at home if they feel like they have any symptoms.
- Staff facility with suitable employees.
- Remain up to date on all events and notices, and developments within your community.
- Create an emergency plan in case of a possible outbreak in your community. Educate and train day care staff members on how to execute the emergency plan.

For additional information and guidance, please visit:

Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) www.cdc.gov

Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) www.osha.gov

National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Disease (NIH) www.niaid.nih.gov

https://ncchildcare.ncdhhs.gov/Portals/0/documents/pdf/C/center_appendix_c.pdf