



Division of Building Safety

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Social Distancing Options and Other Mitigation Strategies in High-Contact Education Settings (special education, preschool, vulnerable student settings, etc.)

- **Recognize groups that might be at increased risk** of becoming infected or having unrecognized illness including the following:
 - Individuals who have limited mobility or require prolonged and close contact with others, such as direct support providers;
 - Individuals who have trouble understanding information or practicing preventive measures, such as handwashing and physical distancing; and
 - Individuals who may not be able to communicate symptoms of illness.
- **Consider a teacher-driven approach** for compliance with infection-control strategies beyond verbal or written student instruction.
- **Encourage parents to consult with the student's personal care providers** regarding the best setting for education such as online or in the classroom.
- **Work With Reduced Ratios**-Working with fewer children in the classroom will help ease any anxiety as the children re-enter the classroom and also help create a control group.
- **Same Group of Children and Teachers Every Day**-The idea here is to restrict the amount of people crossing paths with one another because each additional person is another chance for exposure to COVID-19. Carefully assign your classrooms and keep the teacher and child assignments consistent as much as possible.
- **Alter or Halt Daily Group Activities**-Within the classroom, it is best to limit the contact that the children are having in large groups. Plan activities that the children can stay spread out and do on their own for the time being.
- **Stagger Playground Times**-Limit the number of groups outside on the playground at one time so there are less people crossing paths.
- **Only Children and Staff Allowed Inside**-Have parents sign their children in and out at the entrance to your facilities without actually coming inside.
- **Stagger Arrival and Pick-Up Times**-Give parents specific time windows so you do not have too many families coming at once. If the timing does overlap, ensure that everyone stays at least 6 feet apart.
- **Take Temperatures Upon Arrival and at Lunchtime**-Verify that no child has a fever when they arrive and 3-4 hours later.
- **Implement daily student symptom checklist**-Request report from parent daily to assess for signs of illness or exposure to COVID-19 upon arrival. Students with symptoms or with recent close-contact exposure to COVID-19 should self-isolate and contact the personal care provider.

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- **Cancel or Postpone Any Planned Events**-Wait to have any gatherings until it has been deemed safe to do so.
- **Masks and Hygiene**-All staff should wear masks and wash hands frequently. Students' hands should be washed frequently. Educate staff and families on proper use and care of face coverings.
 - **Cloth face coverings should not be placed on:**
 - Anyone who has trouble breathing or is unconscious.
 - Anyone who is incapacitated or otherwise unable to remove the face covering without assistance.
 - Anyone who cannot tolerate a cloth face covering due to developmental, medical, or behavioral health needs.
- **Hand sanitizer or handwashing** -students and staff wash hands each time upon entry to the classroom.
- **Sanitize Surfaces Frequently** – Student desks, chairs, and learning tools (anything that students handle and touch) should be sanitized several times throughout the day.
- **No outside food** – Avoid parties and events where outside food sources are brought in and shared with the classroom.
- **Use of disposable gloves** during feedings and activities where physical distancing is not possible such as face cleaning, feeding and diapering.
- **Touchless closed lid trash cans** – dispose of PPE and trash away from student contact area.
- **Clean classroom tools between students** – Manipulatives should be cleaned with approved solutions/cleaners between each student. For students that place items in mouth frequently, ensure use of proper protocol methods for cleaning.
- **Increase ventilation** – open doors and windows when feasible to allow for increased ventilation.
- **Hypervigilance to stay home when sick** – both staff and students should remain home when sick. Encourage twice a day temperature checks at home. Encourage parents to take the student's temperature prior to loading the student on the bus.
- **Teach staff signs/symptoms of COVID-19** – The staff member will need to visually recognize signs of illness and additional signs of illness for the non-verbal student which may include changes in behavior, irritability and extreme drowsiness.
 - Post signs that outline possible symptoms of COVID-19.
 - Post signs that encourage infection control measures.
 - Develop an exposure response plan that addresses: isolation, containment and contact tracking procedures.

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