

Key Measures to Prevent the Spread of COVID-19 in Child Care

Recent research suggests wearing a face covering can significantly reduce the incidence of COVID-19. Until a vaccine or cure is developed, face coverings and physical distancing will be two of our best defenses. The Washington State Department of Health (DOH) has released updated guidance on child care, youth development, and summer day camps inside and outside. Below are some highlights from that guidance.

Face Coverings – Who Should Wear Them and When?

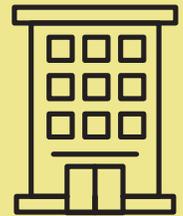
All child care and early learning providers are required to wear face coverings (includes Family Homes with only one staff person working).



ALL STAFF WEAR FACE COVERINGS INSIDE AND OUT AT:



FAMILY HOMES



CENTERS



0 – 2 YEARS OLD
No Face Coverings



3 – 4 YEARS OLD
Face Coverings Optional with Supervision



5 YEARS OLD AND UP
Face Coverings Required

Children are not required to wear face coverings when playing outside, eating meals, or napping. Face coverings should be worn at all other times

Children with Special Conditions (*respiratory, deaf or hard of hearing, advised by a medical, legal, or behavioral health professional not to*): should **not** wear a face covering



Washington State Department of
CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES

Group Sizes and Physical Distancing

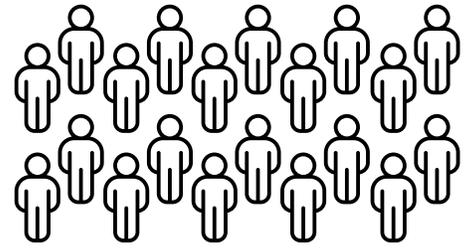
Tips about group sizes

- Group sizes are a **maximum of 22 people** – regardless of age and includes adults and children.
Example – 2 adult staff and 20 children.
- Don't combine groups, keep staff with the same group every day, and keep the groups the same every day (i.e., don't put kids in different groups from one day to the next).

22 People Group Size Limit Example

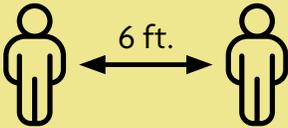


2 ADULT
STAFF

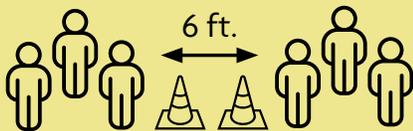


20 CHILDREN

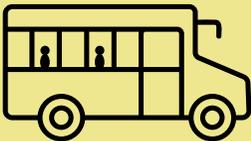
Tips About Physical Distancing



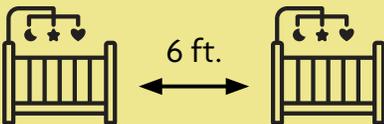
- Try to maintain 6ft of distance between everyone in a group (groups of 22 people)



- Outdoor play should occur in staggered shifts, or keep two or more groups 6ft apart using cones, flags, table or other boundaries.*



- If you have to provide transportation, create space between riders as much as possible, keep windows open, and disinfect after each trip.



- Increase space between cribs and mats to 6 ft.



- Eliminate family style and buffet meals – food and plates/utensils shouldn't be shared.

Don't forget: hand washing, good ventilation, frequent cleaning and disinfecting, and regular screenings of staff and children are essential to reducing the transmission of the virus.

*Playing formal sports? Follow these guidelines:
<https://go.usa.gov/xfbjC> and www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/youth-sports.html

More Resources on Face Coverings and Group Sizes

DOH Guidance for Child Cares:
<https://go.usa.gov/xfTfB>

L&I's COVID-19 Resources:
www.lni.wa.gov/agency/outreach/novel-coronavirus-outbreak-covid-19-resources

DCYF's COVID-19 FAQs:
www.dcyf.wa.gov/coronavirus-covid-19

King County's information on face coverings:
www.kingcounty.gov/depts/health/covid-19/care/masks.aspx

If you would like copies of this document in an alternative format or language, please contact DCYF Constituent Relations (1-800-723-4831 | 360-902-8060, ConstRelations@dcyf.wa.gov).