



Division of Child Care & Early Childhood Education
P.O. Box 1437, Slot S150, Little Rock, AR 72203-1437
P: 501.682.8590 F: 501.683.6060 TDD: 501.682.1550

PANDEMIC GUIDELINES

Administrative Procedures

1. If the facility chooses to close for any reason related to the current pandemic, notification must be made in writing to the Child Care Licensing Unit stating dates of the closure.
2. The facility must notify the Child Care Licensing Unit in writing prior to reopening.
3. The facility shall notify the Arkansas Department of Health at 833-504-0155 each time an employee or child at their facility tests positive for COVID-19.

Group Size

1. Limit number of children in each group to the extent possible. Smaller groups mean fewer potential exposures.
2. Keeping children in the same assigned group each day reduces the likelihood of potential exposure. Minimize mixing between groups to limit potential spread.

General Health Requirements

1. To the extent possible, do not allow sick people into the facility including individuals who meet any of the following criteria:
 - a. A temperature of 100.4°F or above
 - b. Have had a temperature of 100.4°F or above in the last 48 hours
 - c. Signs or symptoms of COVID-19 (fever, cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, chills, repeated shaking with chills, muscle pain, headache, sore throat, new loss of taste or smell)
 - d. Has had a positive test for COVID-19 in the past 10 days or are awaiting the results of a test
 - e. Has been in close contact with someone who has a positive diagnosis of COVID-19 and the close contact has not yet completed the required quarantine after the close contact with the positive person, unless the individual meets the criteria of #2 below.
2. Individuals will not have to quarantine if they meet both of the following criteria:
 - a. Are fully vaccinated, with at least 2 weeks since their final dose,
 - b. Have remained asymptomatic since the exposure
3. Though wearing masks is no longer mandated by the State of Arkansas, CDC and ADH still strongly recommend universal indoor masking for all teachers, staff, students, and visitors, regardless of vaccination status. For safety reasons, under **no** circumstances should a mask be placed on a child under the age of 2. Wearing face masks reduces the risk of potential spread from people who may be asymptomatic or pre-symptomatic. Two layers of 100% cotton is recommended if cloth masks are used. Cloth masks should be laundered daily. Neck gaiters and similar wraps that go around the neck and do not have two layers of material are not recommended. Mask with valves do not meet the

recommendation as it allows more germs to be released into the air. Masks do not have to be worn outdoors.

4. Children may be served individual snacks and meals. Family style meals are not recommended.
5. Sick children shall not be cared for at the facility. If a child becomes sick while at the facility, the parents shall immediately be contacted to pick the child up. The child shall be separated, with appropriate supervision, until the parents arrive to pick the child up. Please follow Section 1100 regarding health and hand washing in the Minimum Licensing Requirements.
6. The facility shall follow all specific directives given by the Department of Human Services related to the current pandemic.
7. Emphasize to employees the importance of NOT coming to work when having any symptoms of COVID-19 until the cause has been investigated by a medical professional.

TRANSPORTATION

1. All vehicles used for transporting children during the current pandemic should be sanitized prior to transporting children and sanitized between each transportation time.
2. Due to the tight quarters and enclosed spaces on buses and vans, it is recommended that all who are able safely to wear masks should do so while in a van or bus.
3. Increase ventilation of outside air in vehicles as much as possible (e.g. opening windows when it is safe to do so, increasing turnover of outside air, etc.)