This guidance is based on current information known about the COVID-19 (Coronavirus). The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the AACO DOH will provide updated guidance as needed and as additional information becomes available. Please continue to check the CDC and the AACO DOH websites routinely for updated guidance.

This guidance is for childcare and daycare facilities, parents of children in care, and their community partners to assist in COVID-19 prevention and preparedness, and to make recommendations regarding community-level spread.

**Recommendations for Child Care Facilities with Confirmed COVID-19 Cases**

Child care facilities may need to implement short-term closure procedures regardless of community spread if an infected person has been in a child care building. If this happens, the first step should always be to speak to local public health officials.

- Use CDC, state and local health department sites to stay informed with the most current and accurate information regarding the development of COVID-19 news. Facilities **should coordinate closure decisions with local public health officials**.

- Encourage children and families to:
  - Use proper cough etiquette when coughing or sneezing, [Cover Your Cough](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/clinical-information/cough-sneeze.html).
  - Cover their coughs and sneezes and to avoid touching their eyes, nose and mouth.
  - Follow proper hand hygiene by washing your hands with soap and water for more than 20 seconds and using alcohol based hand sanitizer with more than 60% alcohol or more when a hand-washing station is not readily available.
  - Keep children home when they are sick (cough, shortness of breath, or fever).
  - Practice social distancing, keeping 6 feet or more between each individual.

- Postpone or cancel activities that meet ANY of the following criteria:
  - Will include significant numbers of high-risk individuals (elderly who are 60+, chronic illness, homeless)
  - Will have more than 10 participants

- Post [signage that promotes handwashing](https://www.cdc.gov/handwashing/index.html).

**When a confirmed case has entered the childcare or daycare facility**

- Dismiss children and most staff for 2-5 days. This allows local health officials to gain understanding of the COVID-19 situation impacting the facility and help determine next steps.
- Cancel group extracurricular activities, after-care programs, and large events.
Advise staff, students and families to avoid gathering or socializing anywhere. This includes large group childcare arrangements, as well as gathering in local shopping malls or a family/friend’s residence.

Continue to communicate with parents of children in care and staff. Include updates on extended closure/dismissal, social distancing and hygiene measures to consider when away from the facility or at home.

- Plan to include messages to counter potential stigma and discrimination.
- In such a circumstance, it is critical to maintain confidentiality of the student or staff member as required by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act.

Clean and disinfect thoroughly.

- Close off areas used by individuals with COVID-19 and wait two days to clean and disinfect. This helps minimize potential exposure to respiratory droplets.
- Cleaning staff should clean and disinfect all areas (e.g., offices, bathrooms, and common areas) used by ill persons. If surfaces are visibly soiled, they should be cleaned using detergent or soap and water prior to disinfection. For disinfection, use of diluted bleach, alcohol solutions and most common EPA-registered household disinfectants should be effective.

Make decisions about extending current child care dismissal. Temporarily dismissing child care programs is a strategy to stop or slow the further spread of COVID-19 in communities.

Additional Information: CDC Resources

- Interim Guidance for Schools and Childcare
- What you need to know about coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19)
- COVID-19 Frequently Asked Questions and Answers
- What to do if you are sick with COVID-19
- Environmental Cleaning and Disinfection Recommendations
- COVID-19 Community Organization Checklist