

FAMILY CHILD CARE HEALTH & SAFETY BULLETIN

...a newsletter for family child care providers and FCC Network Leaders

VOLUME 8: AUGUST 28, 2020

CT Family Child Care Providers Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs): A Compilation from Network & Health Resources Events



1 - Question: Where is the best place to get updated guidance for family childcare homes?

Answer: <https://www.ctoec.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/OEC-COVID-19-Guidance-for-Family-Child-Care-Homes-English-2020-08-12.pdf>

2 – Question: Where is the best place to get that guidance in Spanish?

Answer: <https://www.ctoec.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/OEC-COVID-19-Guidance-for-Family-Child-Care-Homes-Spanish-2020-08-12.pdf>

3 – Question: What if a child won't wear a mask? What kind of masks are acceptable? What about the lanyards that hold them?

Answer: Children in the family daycare setting are not required to wear a mask, and children under 2 should never wear a mask. Children age 2 and older may opt to wear a mask. Providers, staff, and household members (when social distancing not possible) must wear a mask at all times.

4 – Question: How do I keep all of the toys clean between kids?

Answer: Toys can be thrown in a disinfecting solution after play and cleansed/rinsed during naptime, as well as after the kids go home.

5 – Question: Where can I find a sample schedule of when to clean?

Answer: A sample cleaning schedule is available from the Caring for Our Children database: <https://nrckids.org/files/appendix/AppendixK.pdf>

6 – Question: What if I have a medical condition that prevents me from wearing a mask, like asthma?

Answer: According to the OEC document "Guidance for Family Child Care Homes," in Section 2 on "Mask Wearing," children and those with medical conditions are not required to wear a mask.

7 – Question: What are the support numbers available to us through OEC?

Answer: The main number for OEC is (860) 500-4412. The number for the licensing division is (860) 500-4450. The number for the legal division is (860) 500-4466.

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8 – Question: What do we do in the fall with kids with seasonal allergies and cold symptoms?

Answer: The symptoms of COVID-19, according to the CDC, are:

- Fever or chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath / difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion / runny nose
- Nausea / vomiting
- Diarrhea

Since many of these symptoms can also be a symptom of allergies or a cold, a safer protocol would be to have the child evaluated by their healthcare provider before returning to the program.

9 – Question: After symptoms of COVID-19, when can a child come back to childcare? Can I exclude children with cold-like symptoms even if they do not have a fever? What kind of documentation do I need from the family?

Answer: The CDC has specific guidelines that talk about when you must quarantine and isolate that can be found at:

https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/quarantine.html?CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Fif-you-are-sick%2Fquarantine-isolation.html. These guidelines indicate that children may be excluded for any of the symptoms listed above, and a fever is not required for exclusion. Your program may determine what documentation you need from the family, if any, after potential exposure or known illness.

10 – Question: When do we have to call the health department?

Answer: In February 2020, COVID-19 was added to the List of Reportable Diseases. Those required to report such diseases must report cases of COVID-19 infection immediately to the DPH Epidemiology and Emerging Infection Program (860-509-7994) and the local department of health in the town of residence of the case-patient by telephone on the day of recognition or strong suspicion of the disease. For weekend and after-hours reports to DPH, dial 860-509-8000. Contact information for the local health department can be found at <https://portal.ct.gov/DPH/Local-Health-Admin/LHA/Local-Health-Administration---Site-Map>

11 – Question: Because of the travel advisories, do I need to exclude a family if they have traveled to a “hot spot”? What if they travel for work?

Answer: OEC has offered guidance with regard to travel advisories by using the following link, which does state that families who choose to travel to states listed on the advisory list must quarantine for 14 days when they return: <https://www.ctoec.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/COVID-19-Memo-26-Child-Care-Guidance-Travel-Advisories-Revised-2020-08-04.pdf>

12 – Question: Where can I go besides the OEC website for good resources?

Answer: The Connecticut Nurses’ Association has been compiling resources for family child care homes - including webinars, video resources, and English and Spanish posters – which can be found at: <https://ctnurses.org/FCC/>. The CDC website is also recommended, with resources in many languages: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/guidance-for-childcare.html>

13 – Question: What do other providers do with plush toys in their programs?

Answer: Many providers have chosen to exclude plush toys from their programs at this time due to the difficulty in disinfecting these types of toys. Some providers have also decided if a child has a special plush toy that it must be kept in their personal cubby after play.

14 – Question: What do I do if I feel overwhelmed and need someone to talk to?

Answer: A “talk it out” helpline has been established at 833-258-5011 or <http://talkitoutct.com/>

Resource List to Support FAQs on Page I of Volume 8, FCC Health and Safety Bulletin

- **CDC Childcare Decision Tree:** <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/child-care-decision-tool.html>
- **CDC Guidance for Cleaning and Disinfecting:** https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/pdf/Reopening_America_Guidance.pdf
- **OEC's Response to COVID-19:** <https://www.ctoec.org/covid-19/memos/>
- **Talking to Children About COVID-19:** https://higherlogicdownload.s3.amazonaws.com/NASN/3870c72d-fff9-4ed7-833f-215de278d256/UploadedImages/PDFs/02292020_NASP_NASN_COVID-19_parent_handout.pdf
- **CDC Recommendations on Cleaning:** <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/guidance-for-childcare.html#CleanDisinfect>
- **CDC Health Screening Methods:** <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/guidance-for-childcare.html#ScreenChildren>
- **CDC Poster Fact Sheet:** <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/2019-ncov-factsheet.pdf>
- **CDC Poster "How to Protect Yourself and Others":** <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/prevention-H.pdf>
- **CFOC Exclusion Due to Illness:** <https://nrckids.org/CFOC/Database/3.6.1.1>
- **OEC Update to Exclusion Policy: Memo #6:** https://www.ctoec.org/storage/2020/03/Memo-6-Message-Regarding-Child-Care-REVISED-4_20_20.pdf
- **All OEC Memos Related to COVID-19:** <https://www.ctoec.org/covid-19/memos/>
- **CDC Symptom Self Checker:** <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html>
- **OEC Update to Group Size and Enhanced Health Procedures: Memo #15: CDC Steps for Cleaning and Disinfecting When Someone is Sick:** <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/disinfecting-building-facility-H.pdf>
- **CDC Decision Tree for Confirmed COVID-19 Case in Building:** <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/guidance-for-schools.html#guidance>
- **211 of Connecticut Coronavirus General Information Sheet:** <https://uwc.211ct.org/coronavirus-novel-in-connecticut-general-information/>
- **OEC Licensing Contacts:** <https://www.ctoec.org/licensing/>

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