



PUBLIC HEALTH TASK FORCE

TRIBAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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GUIDANCE FOR DAYCARE FACILITIES DURING THE COVID-19 PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY

AS OF MONDAY, JULY 27TH, 2020

While the risk of COVID-19 infection is low in children, serious medical complications have been documented in children who have fallen ill, and exposed children can also shed the virus and potentially expose high-risk individuals in their household. COVID-19 is spread through contact that is close enough to share droplets generated by coughing, sneezing, speaking, and even just breathing. Studies have also shown that COVID-19 can be spread by touching objects where contaminated droplets have landed. Because COVID-19 is so easily transmissible, day care guidance must protect both children, staff, and children's family members from exposure and infection.

Childcare services are essential. Parents and guardians, particularly those in essential service industries, including health care, must be able to continue to work during this public health emergency.

GUIDELINES

The purpose of these guidelines are to help daycares operate safely when being open is permitted according to the CRST Emergency Response Status.

In addition to each facility's normal policies regarding cleanliness, good hygiene practices, and sick children, the following guidelines should be implemented to the greatest extent possible by a child care facility in order to ensure that its employees and its children and parents are safe from the COVID-19 virus.

1. CHILDREN OF ESSENTIAL WORKERS ONLY
 - a. During periods of elevated risk, per CRST Emergency Response Status risk levels, child care facilities may only open for the children of essential service providers, such as first responders, healthcare workers, government workers, teachers, persons who do not have paid leave, parents who cannot work from home or who do not have a family caregiver at home.
 - b. During periods of lower risk, per CRST Emergency Response Status risk levels, child care facilities may open for children of non-essential workers while following heightened standards below.

2. TRAINING OF EMPLOYEES
 - a. Upon re-opening and every 2 weeks thereafter, all employees must be trained on the latest tribal, federal, and state COVID-19 health and safety protocols as they relate to childcare facilities.

- b. All employees must be trained on additional COVID-19-related cleaning procedures, drop-off/pick-up procedures, screening of staff and children upon arrival, and social distancing measures that are specific to the facility.
3. INTENSIFY CLEANING AND DISINFECTING
- a. Frequent and regular disinfecting must be done throughout the day and at the end of each day.
 - b. Routinely clean, sanitize, and disinfect surfaces and objects that are frequently touched, especially toys and games. This may also include cleaning objects/surfaces not ordinarily cleaned daily such as doorknobs, light switches, classroom sink handles, countertops, nap pads, toilet training potties, desks, chairs, cubbies, and playground structures. Use the cleaners typically used at your facility.
4. DROP-OFF / PICK UP
- a. Arrival and drop off times for families should be staggered so as to avoid large groups converging at the facility at the same time.
 - b. As an alternative to (a) above, childcare providers must come outside the facility to pick up the children as they arrive.
5. SYMPTOMS AND EXPOSURE
- a. Parents, older children, and staff should be strongly encouraged to monitor themselves and younger children for signs of infectious illness or close contact/potential exposure to someone with COVID-19 before arriving to the building every day.
 - b. Provide thermometers to families if possible. If not, encourage families to contact the CRST Tribal Health Department for a thermometer.
 - c. If children or staff have any symptoms of COVID-19 or a temperature of 100.4 degrees or greater, they cannot enter the building.
 - d. If a child or staff member has had close contact/potential exposure to someone with COVID-19 within the last 10 days, they cannot enter the building.
 - e. Daycare staff, parents and children (regardless of tribal membership) are expected to work collaboratively with CRST Tribal Health for COVID-19 testing and contact tracing.
 - f. Maintain confidentiality and privacy for children and staff who are sick or exposed.
 - g. Refer to the link in resources for examples of screening methods.
6. NO OVERCROWDING
- a. Conduct as many activities as possible outside.
 - b. Practice social distancing in the facility as much as possible.
 - c. No activities/games that would require children to closely congregate.
 - d. Set up meal stations, nap mats, and activity centers so that children are spaced at least 6 feet apart.
 - e. Maintain small groups and limit mixing between groups, if feasible. Monitor distance between children not playing together.
 - f. Adjust activities and procedures to limit sharing of items such as toys, belongings, supplies, and equipment.

7. FACEMASKS

- a. When feasible, staff members and older children should wear age-appropriate face coverings within the facility.
- b. Cloth face coverings should NOT be put on babies and children under age two because of the danger of suffocation.

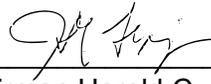
8. HAVE A PLAN IF SOMEONE BECOMES SICK

- a. Plan to have an isolation room or area (such as a cot in a corner of the classroom) that can be used to isolate a sick child.
- b. If a sick child has been isolated in your facility, clean and disinfect surfaces in your isolation room or area after the sick child has gone home.
- c. If an employee becomes sick, send them home immediately.
- d. Be ready to follow CDC guidance on how to disinfect your building or facility if someone is sick.

This guidance applies to all group and in-home daycare settings on the Cheyenne River Sioux Reservation.

7-27-20

DATE



Chairman Harold C. Frazier

RESOURCES

CDC. Supplemental Guidance for Child Care. Available at: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/guidance-for-childcare.html>