

The West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources, Bureau for Public Health (BPH) continues to respond to the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) in West Virginia. BPH is working closely with communities, state agencies, local and federal partners to monitor the ongoing risk of COVID-19 and ensure the health and protection of all individuals in West Virginia.

Child care center providers are required to follow the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\) Guidance for Child Care Programs that Remain Open](#).

To help prevent spread of COVID-19, child care center providers should ensure staff continue to perform routine cleaning and may consider high-risk areas where additional cleaning and disinfection is warranted on a regular schedule.

COMMON SYMPTOMS OF COVID-19

- Fever
- Cough
- Shortness of breath
- Chills
- Muscle pain
- Sore throat
- Recent loss of taste or smell

PERSON-TO-PERSON TRANSMISSION

- Occurs via small droplets from the nose or mouth of the infected person when they cough, sneeze, or exhale.
- Maintain 6 feet social distance when possible.
- Stay home if you feel sick. If you have a fever, cough or difficulty breathing, seek medical attention and call in advance.

PREVENTION

- Isolate sick and diagnosed individuals.
- Encourage frequent and proper hand washing.
- Clean and disinfect surfaces.
- Educate parents and staff about COVID-19.
- Don't share food, drinks, etc.

INDOOR FACE COVERING REQUIREMENT

- Effective July 7, 2020, all individuals over the age of 9 are required to wear face coverings when in confined, indoor spaces, other than one's residence or while actively engaged in the consumption of food and/or beverage, and when not able to adequately social distance from other individuals who do not reside in the same household, pursuant to the Governor's Executive Order 50-20.

INDOOR FACE COVERING REQUIREMENT continued

- Exempt from this requirement are:
 - Children younger than 9 years old,
 - Anyone who has trouble breathing through a face covering, and
 - Persons who are unable to remove the face covering without assistance.

USE OF FACE COVERINGS

- CDC recommends the use of simple cloth face coverings in public settings where social distancing measures are difficult to maintain.
- Face coverings should be used in accordance with CDC guidelines, including:
 1. Launder reusable face coverings before each daily use.
 2. CDC has [additional information on the use of face coverings](#), including washing instructions and information on how to make homemade face covers.
 3. Individuals should be careful not to touch their eyes, nose, and mouth when removing their cloth face covering and wash hands immediately after removing.

NOTE: The cloth face coverings recommended by CDC are not surgical masks or N-95 respirators. Those are critical supplies that must continue to be reserved for healthcare workers and other medical first responders, as recommended by current CDC guidance.





EFFECTIVE DISINFECTANTS

- **Chlorine Bleach:** Mix and use the chlorine solution promptly. Allow 1 minute of contact time and then rinse with water.
- **1000 ppm:** 1/3 cup chlorine bleach in 1-gallon water. Use for stainless steel, food/mouth contact items, tile floors, nonporous surfaces, counters, sinks and toilets.
- **Other Disinfectants:** To determine if a product is effective against COVID-19, review the product label or product specification sheet and ensure it states “*EPA-approved emerging viral pathogen claims.*” You may also search the product name in the Environmental Protection Agency’s registered product database at: <https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-n-disinfectants-use-against-sars-cov-2>

EMPLOYEE HEALTH GUIDELINES

- Per 64 CSR 21.10.4 – Child Care Center Rule: “No staff member affected with any disease in a communicable form including a respiratory infection shall work in any capacity in which there is a likelihood of the staff member transmitting the disease to other persons. In family day care facilities, appropriate measures shall be taken to protect staff and children from the direct or indirect transmission of diseases from non-staff household members.”

HAND WASHING

- Children must wash hands before meals and snacks, after visiting the toilet room, after activity/play time and any other time when hands are soiled.
- Staff must wash their hands frequently while attending to children, after changing diapers, before eating or performing any food related function and after visiting the toilet room or assisting children in toileting activity.

CLEANING AND DISENFECTING

- Routinely clean, sanitize, and disinfect surfaces and objects that are frequently touched, especially toys and games. This may also include doorknobs, light switches, classroom sink handles, countertops, nap pads, toilet training potties, desks, chairs, cubbies, and playground equipment.
- Spills of body fluids, which include urine, feces, blood, saliva, nasal discharge, eye discharge and injury or tissue discharges shall be cleaned up immediately.
- The staff shall employ universal precautions for protection from disease or infection.
- Staff performing cleaning and disinfection should follow recommendations for personal protective equipment listed on product labels, per above guidance.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- [Guidance for Child Care Programs that Remain Open](#)

Questions and concerns can also be directed to the 24/7, toll-free COVID-19 information hotline at

1-800-887-4304

