

DELAWARE INSTITUTE FOR Excellence *in* Early Childhood

Safety and health are always at the forefront of your operations. Now, as you manage through COVID-19, implementing safety and health practices requires exceptional vigilance. And, yes, it can be overwhelming.

If you are an emergency child care site or considering reopening as one, we want to provide you with a breakdown of the expectations for keeping you, your staff, and children of essential workers and their families safe and healthy.

First, as a baseline, you must continue to adhere to existing DELACARE regulations enforced by the Office of Child Care Licensing (OCCL). Additionally, there are new requirements and guidelines as a part of the State of Emergency, its modifications, and Executive Order 38.

The requirements center around:

- Revised group size and ratio requirements
- Cleaning and Sanitizing
- Drop Off and Pick up Routines to include Screening

For the details about these requirements, click [here](#).

Further, effective May 1, the Governor's thirteenth modification to the State of Emergency requires businesses to adhere to additional safeguards against the spread of COVID-19.

For child care businesses, these practices include:

- All child care providers and/or staff working in child care facilities must wear cloth face coverings while at work;
- Business owners must provide these cloth face coverings to staff if staff do not already have them;
- Business owners must provide access to hand sanitizer for staff;
- Business owners must deny entry to anyone over the age of 12 who is not wearing a face covering, if one is not available to be provided to that person.
- Face coverings are not required for any child under 12, and children under two may not wear face coverings.

Although this may seem like a lot, we have to remember that these practices will help us move to the next phase of re-opening and most importantly, prevent the spread of COVID-19.

We encourage you to check out the [CDC website](#) for additional recommendations. The website also includes simple directions for making cloth face coverings and hand sanitizer.

This state [website](#) is another resource to locate supplies.