

Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Advice For Groups Who Work with Young Children

This disease spreads fast and danger is rising in Washington. Governor Inslee gave a [Stay at Home, Stay Healthy order](#) on March 23 to help protect us.

Groups who offer childcare, housing, shelter, food, and a safe place from violence must meet CDC and Department of Health rules to be safe and clean.

Stay up-to-date

Give someone a job to look for updates from:

- [Local Public Health Department](#)
- [Washington State Department of Health](#)
- [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Situation Summary](#)

Make a plan

- Make or check your emergency plan. Look over ways to reduce the spread of disease and set up ways to talk with staff, youth, helpers, families and others. Work together with local health and other partners.

Check signs of illness in staff and youth

- Take the temperature and check staff and youth each day.
- Don't let youth, staff, parents or other adults around if they show signs of being sick or have been near a person with COVID-19 in the last 14 days. People at high risk with other health problems should also not be around.
 - Older people and those who have other health problems, like asthma, might get very sick from COVID-19. These people should not help with your group right now and should stay home. (For more help, see [Help for People at Higher Risk for Serious Illness.](#))

Social distancing

- Make group sizes small and not more than 10 people. This is for all people, adults and youth.
- Keep these groups away from other groups each day. Try to have the same people grouped every day so they can stay safe and away from others, even at lunch.

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- Use one room per group if you can. Big rooms like a gym can be made into two rooms. You can use cones, chairs or tables as a wall to keep at least 6 feet between the groups.
- Try to keep people in the group six feet apart if you can and keep time they are close to each other short.
- Keep youth busy with things that don't need them to be close to each other.
- Tell youth not to touch their face and wash their hands if they share things. It is safer not to share things right now if you can.
- Keep time standing in lines short.
- Try and play outside more and open windows often.

Ways to stay clean and safe

- Make staff and youth wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds often. This should happen when they arrive, before they eat, and before they go home. If there is no soap and water use 60% alcohol-based hand gel.
- Remind youth, family and staff not to touch their eyes, nose and mouth before they wash their hands.
- Ask staff and youth to cover coughs or sneezes with a tissue then throw it in the trash. Then wash hands or use hand gel.
- Make sure there is enough soap, paper towels and hand gel for all to use.
- Use vents to let more fresh air into places where groups are.
- Follow cleaning guides to keep shared door knobs, tables, chairs and bathrooms safe. If your group shares tools or other items, tell users to clean after each use. Make sure there are cleaning wipes for them to use.
- Hang signs that show how staff, families, and youth can stay clean and safe.
 - See [CDC's print help](#).

For groups that help with food

- Wash hands often.
- Make the menu simple.
- Offer food that is easier to make.
- Don't offer family style meals right now.
- Wrap fruits and vegetables to hand out.
- Have meals picked up at special times.
- Keep people six feet apart when they eat or pick up food.

See [DOH's help for food workers](#) for more information.

More help

- If licensed, talk to DCYF if you may not have enough staff for your group to meet the rules.
- Find other people in your group who can help in case staff get sick and are not able to show up for work.
- Talk often with parents/legal guardians about their child's health and let them know what your group's plan is to help keep them safe right now.
- Have a plan ready in case you need medical help for your youth if hospitals are not an option for non-urgent medical needs.
- Make sure youth have enough prescription medicine.
- If needed, work with McKinney Vento contacts to keep youth in touch with school.

If you may have to close

- Think about what will happen in your community if you have to close.
 - Review all the ways closing down would affect staff and community members.
 - Ask: Are there other services that people could use if you have to close? How will you keep in touch with people and make sure they know where to get help?
- Make a plan to keep in touch with those who may be most at need if you have to close.

More COVID-19 Help and Resources

Stay up-to-date on the [COVID-19 in Washington](#), [Governor Inslee's proclamations](#), [symptoms](#), [how it spreads](#), and [how and when people should get tested](#). See our [Frequently Asked Questions](#) for more help.

The risk of COVID-19 is not connected to race, ethnicity or nationality. [Stigma will not help to fight the illness](#). Share true information with others to keep rumors and bad advice from spreading.

- [WA State Department of Health 2019 Novel Coronavirus Outbreak \(COVID-19\)](#)
- [WA State Coronavirus Response \(COVID-19\)](#)
- [Find Your Local Health Department or District](#)
- [CDC Coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#)
- [Stigma Reduction Resources](#)
- [Just For Kids: A Comic Exploring The New Coronavirus](#)

Have more questions about COVID-19? Call us at: 1-800-525-0127.

For more services, **press #** when they answer and **say your language**. (Open from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m.) For questions about your own health, COVID-19 testing, or testing results, please contact your health care provider.

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