

Letter from PBC Childcare to providers:

Good morning Child Care Provider,

The Department is committed to protecting the health and safety of children in child care settings. Child care providers are required to take proactive measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and safeguard children and their families. This includes following the recommendations of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The CDC website states:

“If Your Child Care Program Remains Open

Child care programs that remain open during the COVID-19 pandemic should address these additional considerations:

- Implement [social distancing strategies](#)
- Intensify [cleaning and disinfection efforts](#)
- Modify [drop off and pick up procedures](#)
- Implement [screening procedures up arrival](#)
- Maintain an adequate ratio of staff to children to ensure safety.
 - Plan ahead and recruit those with child care experience to ensure you have a roster of substitute caregivers who can fill in if your staff members are sick or stay home to care for sick family members.
- When feasible, staff members and older children should [wear face coverings](#) within the facility. Cloth face coverings should NOT be put on babies and children under age two because of the danger of suffocation”

“No matter the level of transmission in a community, every child care program should have a plan in place to protect staff, children, and their families from the spread of COVID-19. “

Additionally, Palm Beach County Emergency Order 2020-002a ordered that:

- Childcare must be carried out in stable groups of 10 or fewer (inclusive of childcare providers for the group)
- Children and childcare providers shall not change from one group to another
- If more than one group of children is cared for at one facility, each group shall be in a separate room.
- Groups shall not mix or interact with each other.

Questions to consider when deciding whether to remain open or to re-open your facility:

- How will you safely screen every staff member and every child 1-2 times a day (I.e., do you have single use thermometers and/or the capacity to sanitize thermometers between uses?)
- How will you limit entry of parents and other family members into the child care area?
- Are your staff and families aware of COVID-19 symptoms and are they self-monitoring?
- Do you have the resources to provide adequate supplies for good hygiene, including clean and functional handwashing stations, soap, paper towels, and alcohol-based hand sanitizer (60-95% alcohol).
- Can you shift away from family-style meal procedures to staff-only served meals and beverages?
- Will you be able to increase your program’s cleaning and disinfection routine to multiple times per day, while being careful with children in the near vicinity?

Palm Beach County Childcare Guidelines

- Can you reorganize classroom spaces to encourage social distancing practices during activities and nap time?
- Do you have a plan in the event a child or staff member develops symptoms during child care hours?

Stay informed about COVID-19 with information available at:

- ❖ [CDC Guidance for Child Care Programs that Remain Open](#)
- ❖ [FDOH COVID-19 Schools and Child Care Programs](#)
- ❖ [DCF Covid-19 Information - Child Care Services](#)
- ❖ [Palm Beach County Orders](#)
- ❖ [Florida 2020 Executive Orders](#)

Additional Helpful Resources:

- ❖ Webinar with ChildCareAware and CDC [Child Care During COVID-19: Guidance & Implementation from Experts](#)
- ❖ [Caring for Our Children 3.3 Cleaning, Sanitizing, and Disinfecting](#)

As always, Child Care providers are encouraged to reach out to myself or anyone in the Child Care team with questions or updates.

Alternatively, inquiries, incident reports, and updates regarding program operational status can be e-mailed to PBChildcare@flhealth.gov.