

COVID-19 AND CHILDCARE: CHILD MANAGEMENT CHECKLIST

CUPE

Creating an effective plan on how to manage daily activity for child-care management is important to controlling the hazards of COVID-19. Implementing engineering and administrative controls are measures that will support a healthy and safe return for workers and children alike.

We need to look at the worker's duties, tasks, and requirements to help establish the modifications that will be necessary to make sure the employer is taking every reasonable precaution to ensure the health and safety of all workers. Below are some daily activities and modifications to consider.

DIAPERING

Follow safe diaper changing procedures. Procedures should be posted in all diaper changing areas. Steps include:

1. Prepare by putting on gloves and any other PPE required. Follow proper PPE usage procedures
2. Clean the child
3. Remove trash (soiled diaper and wipes)
4. Replace diaper
5. Wash child's hands
6. Clean up diapering station
7. Follow PPE removal procedures and wash hands

After diapering, wash your hands and disinfect the diapering area. If the surface is dirty, it should be cleaned with detergent or soap and water prior to disinfection.

If reusable cloth diapers are used, they should not be rinsed or cleaned in the facility. The soiled cloth diaper and its contents (without emptying or rinsing) should be placed in a plastic bag or into a plastic-lined, hands-free, covered diaper pail to be given to parents/guardians or laundry service.

WASHING, FEEDING, OR HOLDING A CHILD

It is important to comfort crying, sad, and/or anxious infants and toddlers, and they often need to be held. To the extent possible, when washing, feeding, or holding very young children, childcare providers should be provided with the appropriate protective equipment to perform this work safely.

- Child care providers should wash their hands, neck, and anywhere touched by a child's secretions.
- Child care providers should change the child's clothes if secretions are on the child's clothes. They should change the button-down shirt if there are secretions on it, and wash their hands again.
- Contaminated clothes should be placed in a plastic bag or washed in a washing machine.
- Infants, toddlers, and their providers should have multiple changes of clothes on hand in the child care center or home-based child care.
- Child care providers should wash their hands before and after handling infant bottles, whether prepared at home or prepared in the facility. Bottles, bottle caps, nipples, and other equipment used for bottle feeding should be thoroughly cleaned after each use by washing in a dishwasher or by washing with a bottlebrush, soap, and water.

COT CLEANING AND DISINFECTING

- Cots must be labelled and assigned/designated to a single child per use
- Cots must be cleaned and disinfected before being assigned to a child
- High-touch surfaces on cots must be disinfected at least twice per day and as often as necessary
- Cots must be stored so there is no contact with the sleeping surface of another cot
- Cots and bedding must be laundered daily, and when soiled or wet

FOOD PREPARATION AND MEAL SERVICE

- If a cafeteria or group dining room is typically used, serve meals in classrooms instead. If meals are typically served family-style, plate each child's meal to serve it so that multiple children are not using the same serving utensils.

- Children in the same groups and rooms should be restricted to one eating area. If that is not possible, consider staggering meals times to reduce group gathering to a minimum.
- Food preparation should not be done by the same staff who diaper children.
- Gloves, tongs, and other utensils should be used to prevent direct contact with food.
- Sinks used for food preparation should not be used for any other purposes.
- Dedicate work stations and equipment for each worker. (Shared resources must be cleaned between uses.)
- Separate food prep and pickup areas and designate different workers for each.
- Caregivers should ensure children wash hands prior to and immediately after eating.
- Caregivers should wash their hands before preparing food and after helping children to eat.
- The proper functioning of the dishwashing and laundry equipment should be checked. Pay particular attention to the operating temperatures and the correct dosage of cleaning and disinfecting chemicals.

ROOM ACTIVITY

- As much as possible, plan programming that does not require touching materials. For example, turn to movies, story time, etc.
- Keep each group of children in a separate room.
- Keep children from the same family together, if possible.
- Limit the mixing of children, using practices such as staggering playground/activity times.
- Keep groups separate for special activities such as art, music, and exercise.
- If possible, at nap time ensure children's mats or cribs are spaced out as much as possible, ideally six feet apart. Consider placing children head-to-toe in order to further reduce the potential for viral spread.
- Consider whether to alter or halt daily group activities that may promote transmission.
- Only using Montessori activities that may be cleaned and disinfected on a regular basis.

WHAT SHOULD MY LOCAL DO?

- Ensure all members are provided training on procedures, personal protective equipment (PPE), and processes for cleaning and sanitizing or disinfecting prior to re-opening.
- Follow up with members and agencies to ensure they are following proper protocols.
- Ensure the Joint Health and Safety Committee or Health and Safety Representative are reviewing new protocols, procedures, and training provided by the employer.
- Notify your CUPE national staff representative and file grievances should any employer fail to establish or maintain protocols needed for a healthy and safe workplace.