

Minimizing the Spread of COVID-19: Tips for Drop-off and Pick up in Child Care Settings

Strategies to minimize the transmission of COVID-19 in child care settings help protect staff, children, and their families. Child drop-off and pick up times present unique challenges due to the increased number of adults present in the program. Oncoming inclement winter weather and increased difficulty in maintaining the level of staff needed to continue these modified procedures, present increased challenges for child care providers. This document outlines some strategies to help modify drop-off and pick up procedures to help limit the number of individuals in your program and reduce potential spread of the virus within your building.

The [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) outlines drop-off and pick up procedures that limit entry to the building by parents/guardians. Please use this information to build prevention strategies into your drop-off and pick up procedures.

Below are some examples of child and caregiver screening measures you should consider to help mitigate the spread of COVID-19 in child care.

- If at all possible, greet children outside or at the door as they arrive.
- If families have varied schedules, consider encouraging staggered drop-off and pick up times during busy periods to limit crowding.
- If you allow parents/guardians to enter your facility, create clear messaging to families to ask for compliance in helping to stop the spread. This should include:
 - **If parents are feeling ill or have been exposed, they should not come into the building.**
Consider utilizing the same methods for [screening children](#) upon arrival of parents and other adults participating in drop-off or pick up, such as 1) symptom screening onsite or 2) requiring the screening at home and self-reporting. If yes to any of these questions, parents should not be allowed into the program – Do you have:
 - Fever or feeling feverish?
 - Chills?
 - A new cough?
 - Shortness of breath?
 - A new sore throat?
 - New muscle aches?
 - New headache?
 - New loss of smell or taste?
 - Encourage families to use the same adult for both drop-off and pick up whenever possible.
 - Require adults to wear a face covering.
 - Provide and require use of hand sanitizer or hand washing before or as close to point of entry as possible.
 - Limit drop-off and pick up to no more than 5 minutes. Discourage families from being sidetracked and socializing.
 - Require adults to maintain social distancing at all times while inside the child care setting and do not allow entry into the child care space, such as the classroom.
 - Caregivers and staff should not engage in hand shaking, hugging, or other physical contact.