

# CHILD CARE SAFETY CHECK LIST: WHAT DOES SAFE CHILD CARE LOOK LIKE IN COVID-19?

*This list is based on guidance for reopening child care issued by the Department of Children and Family Services, Illinois Department of Public Health, and the Centers for Disease Prevention and Control.*

Illinois' early childhood advocates are here to help you determine what it will look like—and if it will be safe—when your child returns to child care. Here is a check list with some of the most important things to look for.



## FACE MASKS

- All staff and children 2 years and older should wear face mask, which is the most effective way to prevent the spread of COVID-19.



## FEWER CHILDREN IN EACH CLASS WITH THE SAME CHILDREN AND STAFF EACH DAY

- Limits exposure to other teachers and children.
- Bonus: smaller class sizes are found to improve quality too!



## LIMITED ENTRY TO FACILITY AND CLASSROOMS DURING DROP-OFF AND PICK-UP

- Parents may be asked to use different entrances, wait in their cars, or maintain distance with others.
- Ask your child's teacher or caregiver how they plan to communicate with families - perhaps by text, email, or other means.



## DAILY HEALTH CHECKS, INCLUDING TEMPERATURE AND SYMPTOM CHECKS

- Help prevent sick individuals from entering and spreading infection.
- If you OR your child feel sick, stay home to prevent infecting others, and keep child care programs from having outbreaks or closures.



## ENHANCED, FREQUENT CLEANING AND DISINFECTING

- Child care programs have historically followed thorough cleaning procedures, but programs are being even more strict now.



## REMOVAL OF CLASSROOM MATERIALS THAT CAN'T BE EASILY CLEANED—LIKE STUFFED ANIMALS AND SOFT, PLUSH TOYS

- Children shouldn't bring stuffed animals from home, either.
- If your child is teething, talk to your provider about the sanitizing process for teething toys.



## CLEAR PROCEDURES TO RESPOND QUICKLY AND APPROPRIATELY IN THE EVENT OF POSITIVE COVID-19 CASE

- Make sure you ask your child care program about these procedures, as well as how personal information is kept confidential!



## COMMUNICATION PLANS TO ENSURE FAMILIES ARE NOTIFIED OF POSITIVE CASES—AND THAT FAMILIES INFORM PROGRAMS OF ANY EXPOSURE OUTSIDE OF CHILD CARE



We encourage you to review your child care provider's **re-opening plan** to make sure you understand and are comfortable with the health and safety precautions that are in place. More information and resources are on [Illinois Action for Children's COVID-19 website](https://www.actforchildren.org).

