

Pandemic Policy

COVID-19

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Child care is a critical part of the public health emergency response team

Introduction

The virus is thought to spread mainly from person-to-person.

- Between people who are in close contact with one another (within about 6 feet).
- Through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs, sneezes or talks.
- These droplets can land in the mouths or noses of people who are nearby or possibly be inhaled into the lungs.
- Some studies have suggested that COVID-19 may be spread by people who are not showing symptoms.

Knowing these facts, Anna's House Preschools has implemented many new safety measures for families, children and teachers to follow so that we are an important part of reducing the spread and keeping everyone as healthy as possible.

Social Distancing Strategies

Anna's House Preschools staff and families will work with the local health officials to determine a set of strategies appropriate for Anna's House Preschools. We will use preparedness strategies and will be following social distancing strategies during Covid-19

- Classes will include the same group each day, and the same child care providers will remain with the same group each day. We will consider creating a separate classroom or group for the children of healthcare workers and other first responders.
- Cancel or postpone special events such as festivals, holiday events, and special performances.
- We will alter or halt daily group activities that may promote transmission.
 - Keep each group of children in a separate room.
 - Limit the mixing of children, such as staggering playground times and keeping groups separate for special activities such as art, music, and exercising.
- We will consider staggering arrival and drop off times and/or have child care providers come outside the facility to pick up the children as they arrive. Our plan for curbside drop off and pick up will limit direct contact between parents and staff members and adhere to social distancing recommendations.

Guideline for onset of illness at Anna's House Preschools

Child

- If a child becomes sick during the day. The director will remove the child to the isolation room and keep the child comfortable until the family can arrive.
- The director will call the child's family and request an immediate pick up.

Employee

- Employees who appear to have symptoms (i.e., fever, cough, or shortness of breath) upon arrival at work or who become sick during the day should immediately be separated from other employees, customers, and visitors and sent home.
- If an employee is confirmed to have COVID-19 infection, employers should inform fellow employees of their possible exposure to COVID-19 in the workplace but maintain confidentiality as required by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The fellow employees should then self-monitor for symptoms (i.e., fever, cough, or shortness of breath).

Guidelines for onset of illness while at home

Child

- If a child becomes sick at home with any symptoms, cough, fever, muscle aches, generally not feeling well, we ask that you notify us and keep your child at home. Follow our current Illness Policy to understand the return to

school policy. If symptoms are consistent with Covid-19, please phone your child's pediatrician and ask for guidance. Please phone us and share that guidance so that Anna's House Preschools will know how to proceed with our next steps of notifying the proper and required people, and/or authorities.

Employee

- Stay home: Most people with COVID-19 have mild illness and are able to recover at home without medical care. Do not leave your home, except to get medical care. Do not visit public areas.
- Stay in touch with your doctor
- Stay away from others: You should stay in a specific "sick room" if possible, and away from other people and pets in your home. Use a separate bathroom, if available.
- If you develop emergency warning signs for COVID-19 get medical attention immediately. Emergency warning signs include*:
 - Trouble breathing
 - Persistent pain or pressure in the chest
 - New confusion or inability to arouse
 - Bluish lips or face

Family member

- If caring for a sick household member, follow recommended precautions and monitor your own health
- Have the person stay in one room, away from other people, including yourself, as much as possible.
 - If possible, have them use a separate bathroom.
 - Avoid sharing personal household items, like dishes, towels, and bedding
 - Have them wear a cloth face covering (that covers their nose and mouth) when they are around people, including you.
 - If the sick person can't wear a cloth face covering, you should wear one while in the same room with them.
 - If the sick person needs to be around others (within the home, in a vehicle, or doctor's office), they should wear a cloth face covering that covers their mouth and nose.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after interacting with the sick person. If soap and water are not readily available, use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol. Cover all surfaces of your hands and rub them together until they feel dry.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Every day, clean all surfaces that are touched often, like counters, tabletops, and doorknobs
 - Use household cleaning sprays or wipes according to the label instructions.
- Wash laundry thoroughly.
 - If laundry is soiled, wear disposable gloves and keep the soiled items away from your body while laundering. Wash your hands immediately after removing gloves.
- Avoid having any unnecessary visitors.
- For any additional questions about their care, contact their healthcare provider or state or local health department.

Keep surfaces disinfected

- Avoid sharing personal items
- Monitor for emergency signs, prevent the spread of germs, treat symptoms, and carefully consider when to end home isolation.

Children/Staff who have had close contact with a person with symptoms or diagnosed with COVID-19

- Children who have symptoms should stay home
- Employees who have symptoms (i.e., fever, cough, or shortness of breath) should notify their supervisor and stay home.

- Sick employees should follow CDC-recommended steps. Employees should not return to work until the criteria to discontinue home isolation are met, in consultation with healthcare providers and state and local health departments.
- Employees who are well but who have a sick family member at home with COVID-19 should notify their supervisor and follow CDC recommended precautions.
- If an employee is confirmed to have COVID-19 infection, employers should inform fellow employees of their possible exposure to COVID-19 in the workplace but maintain confidentiality as required by the Americans with Disabilities Act. Fellow employees should then self-monitor for symptoms (i.e., fever, cough, or shortness of breath).
- Employees should not return to work until the criteria to end home isolation is met as instructed in consultation with healthcare providers and state and local health departments.

Children/Staff with COVID-19 who have home isolated can stop isolation with these conditions

- If a test will not be administered to determine if you are still contagious, children and staff can return to Anna’s House Preschools after these three things have happened:
 - No fever for at least 72 hours (that is three full days of no fever without the use medicine that reduces fevers)
AND
 - other symptoms have improved (for example, when cough or shortness of breath have improved)
AND
 - at least 7 days have passed since symptoms first appeared
- If a test is required to determine if person is still contagious, children or staff can return to Anna’s House Preschools after these three things have happened:
 - No fever (without the use medicine that reduces fevers)
AND
 - other symptoms have improved (for example, when cough or shortness of breath have improved)
AND
 - Received two negative tests in a row, 24 hours apart. Your doctor will follow CDC guidelines
- Persons with laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 who have not had any symptoms may discontinue isolation when at least 7 days have passed since the date of their first positive COVID-19 diagnostic test and have had no subsequent illness provided they remain asymptomatic. For 3 days following discontinuation of isolation, these persons should continue to limit contact (stay 6 feet away from others) and limit potential of dispersal of respiratory secretions by wearing a covering for their nose and mouth whenever they are in settings where other people are present. In community settings, this covering may be a barrier mask, such as a bandana, scarf, or cloth mask. The covering does not refer to a medical mask or respirator.

If Anna’s House Preschools has a case of Covid-19

- We will notify families and staff of the exposure
- We will report the confirmed case to the local health department and follow their specific guidelines
- We will report the confirmed case to the state Department of Public Health
- Determine the date of symptom onset for the child/staff member
- Determine if the child/staff member attended/worked at the program while symptomatic or during the 2 days before symptoms began
- Identify what days the child/staff member attended/worked during that time
- Determine who had close contact with the child/staff member at the program during those days. Refer back to Child/Staff Movements form
- Close off areas used by the individuals with COVID-19
- Exclude the children and staff members who are determined to have had close contact with the affected/child/staff member for 14 days after the last day they had contact with the affected/child/staff member

- Wait as long as practical before beginning cleaning and disinfection to minimize potential for exposure to respiratory droplets.
 - Open outside doors and windows to increase air circulation in the area.
 - If possible, wait up to 24 hours before beginning cleaning and disinfection. If 24 hours is not feasible, wait as long as possible
 - Clean and disinfect all areas used by the sick person, such as offices, bathrooms, common areas, shared electronic equipment like tablets, touch screens, keyboards, and remote controls.
 - If more than 7 days since the sick person visited or used the facility, additional cleaning and disinfection is not necessary. –
 - Continue routine cleaning and disinfection
 - When cleaning•
 - Wear disposable gloves and gowns for all tasks in the cleaning process, including handling trash.
 - Additional personal protective equipment (PPE) might be required based on the cleaning/disinfectant products being used and whether there is a risk of splash.
 - Gloves and gowns should be removed carefully to avoid contamination of the wearer and the surrounding area.
 - Wash your hands often with soap and water for 20 seconds. Always wash immediately after removing gloves and after contact with a sick person.

Dismiss students and most staff for 2-5 days

This initial short-term dismissal allows time for the local health officials to gain a better understanding of the COVID-19 situation impacting the school. This allows the local health officials to help the school determine appropriate next steps, including whether an extended dismissal duration is needed to stop or slow further spread of COVID-19.

- Local health officials’ recommendations for the scope and duration of school dismissals will be made on a case-by-case basis using the most up-to-date information about COVID-19 and the specific cases in the community.
- Discourage staff, students, and their families from gathering or socializing anywhere. This includes group child care arrangements, as well as gathering at places like a friend’s house, a favorite restaurant, or the local shopping mall.

Health Screening Of Children/Staff

All children and staff are required to be screened for any observable illness, including cough or respiratory distress, and to confirm temperature below 100 degrees

Child

- Perform hand hygiene
- Staff will wear a mask and gloves while checking child’s temperature
- Check each child’s temperature upon arrival. Currently a fever is considered 100 degrees
- Thermometer must be disinfected before and after use of checking child’s temperature unless a touchless thermometer is used.
- If performing a temperature check on multiple individuals, ensure that a clean pair of gloves is used for each individual and that the thermometer has been thoroughly cleaned in between each check.
- Staff will protect themselves by wearing an over-large button-down, long sleeved shirt or t-shirt and by wearing long hair up off the collar in a ponytail or other up do.
- Staff should wash their hands, neck, and anywhere touched by a child’s secretions.

- Staff 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.
- Show the temperature to the parent, and have the parent write in the correct column the child's temperature.
- Staff should sign off on Student/Staff Arrival Questionnaire

Staff member

- Staff should expect to arrive at least 5-10 minutes early than their scheduled shift
- Staff should either have their own thermometer from home, or use school thermometer, depending on supply and demand issues
- Staff should answers the questions on Student/Staff Questionnaire, record their temperature, and have the director or designee witness temperature reading
- Return thermometer to staff assigned area

During the day- prevention of Covid-19

Arrival of children

- Stagger arrival and drop off times and/or have child care providers come outside the facility to pick up the children as they arrive.
- Plan for curbside drop off and pick up should limit direct contact between parents and staff members and adhere to social distancing recommendations.
- The same parent or designated person should drop off and pick up the child every day
- If possible, older people such as grandparents or those with serious underlying medical conditions should not pick up children, because they are more at risk for [severe illness from COVID-19](#)
- Each family will have their own sign-in clipboard and pen located either outside or close to the entrance as possible. Pen will be sprayed down with bleach and water after the family uses it.
- Check each child's temperature upon arrival. Currently a fever is considered 100 degrees. Families also need to complete a daily summary of the child's exposure to Covid-19, and if the child has any of the identified symptoms set by the CDC guidance, the child should not be permitted to attend.
- Staff will help child remove shoes and get hands washed
- Assure that the family has completed the sign in/check in sheet

Arrival of Staff

- Bring in to the center as little as you possibly will need for the day.
- Staff must wear a mask all day (CONSIDERING THIS POLICY) excluding meal times and/or break time
- Place your items down and wash hands
- Take temperature and have director or designee witness
- Spray your lunch bag down with bleach and water and place in refrigerator
- Put other items away
 - Spray the area that you left your belongings on
- Sign in
- Wash hands and put on your mask
- Put on your "center shoes", leave "outside of center" shoes in entryway

Departure of children

- Currently there is staggered pick up, if enrollment increases and staggered pick up cannot be practiced, Anna's House Preschools will practice the Call practice
 - Upon arrival into the driveway and parking area, the family will phone the center of their arrival
 - The staff member will gather the child's things

- The staff member will have child wash his/her hands
- Staff member will take child, belongings, and clipboard to the family who will complete the pickup time in the parking lot

Departure of Staff

Once all children have departed and center is cleaned

- Wash mask in soap and water and disinfect in bleach and water, hang to dry
- Wash hands
- Take off “center shoes”
- Take all belongings home

Various times of the day

- All children’s blankets, slippers or inside shoes, extra clothes are to stay at the center to reduce the transmission of Covid-19 from home to school
- Keep classroom size as small as possible. Current OEC/Covid-19 recommendations is no more than 9 children with 1 teacher or 8 infants with 2 teachers in the infant room
- At nap time, ensure that children’s nap mats (or cribs) are spaced out as much as possible, ideally 6 feet apart. Continue to practice head to toe in order to further reduce the potential for viral spread.
- Children’s books, like other paper-based materials such as mail or envelopes, are not considered as a high risk for transmission and do not need additional cleaning or disinfection procedures. We do Anna’s House a light spray down of bleach throughout the day
- Break room will have a bleach spray bottle for staff to use before and after use of the table if the employee needs to eat lunch.
- Use of cloth face covering for each staff person at all times (CONSIDERING) while in the workplace is mandatory. Instructions for use of cloth face covering are available from the CDC.
 - Exemptions to anyone for whom doing so would be contrary to his or her health or safety because of a medical condition
 - A child in a child care setting
 - Under the age of 2

Midday cleaning

- Clean the area or item with soap and water or another detergent if it is dirty. Then, use disinfectant.
- Recommend use of [EPA-registered household disinfectant external icon](#). Follow the instructions on the label to ensure safe and effective use of the product.
- Keeping surface wet for a period of time one minute
- Precautions such as wearing gloves and making sure you have good ventilation during use of the product.

Soft surface Cleaning

For soft surfaces such as carpeted floor, rugs, and drapes

- Clean the surface using soap and water or with cleaners appropriate for use on these surfaces.
- Launder items (if possible) according to the manufacturer’s instructions. Use the warmest appropriate water setting and dry items completely or
- Disinfect with an EPA-registered household disinfectant. These disinfectants meet EPA’s criteria for use against COVID-19.

Electronics

For electronics, such as tablets, touch screens, keyboards, and remote controls

- Consider putting a wipeable cover on electronics.
- Follow manufacturer’s instruction for cleaning and disinfecting.
- Use alcohol-based wipes or sprays containing at least 70% alcohol. Dry surface thoroughly.

Laundry

For clothing, towels, linens and other items

- Launder items according to the manufacturer's instructions. Use the warmest appropriate water setting and dry items completely.
- Wear disposable gloves when handling dirty laundry from a person who is sick.
- Dirty laundry from a person who is sick can be washed with other people's items.
- Do not shake dirty laundry.
- Clean and disinfect clothes hampers according to guidance above for surfaces.
- Remove gloves, and wash hands right away.

Clean and Sanitize Toys

- Toys that cannot be cleaned and sanitized should not be used.
- Toys that children have placed in their mouths or that are otherwise contaminated by body secretions or excretions should be set aside until they are cleaned by hand by a person wearing gloves. Clean with water and detergent, rinse, sanitize with an EPA-registered disinfectant, rinse again, and air-dry. You may also clean in a mechanical dishwasher.
- Be mindful of items more likely to be placed in a child's mouth, like play food, dishes, and utensils.
- Machine washable cloth toys are not to be used during Covid-19 or must be laundered as soon as a child finishes playing with it
- Do not share toys with other groups of children, unless they are washed and sanitized before being moved from one group to the other.
- Set aside toys that need to be cleaned. Place in a dish pan with soapy water or put in a separate container marked for "soiled toys." Keep the dish pan and water out of reach from children to prevent risk of drowning. Washing with soapy water is the ideal method for cleaning. Try to have enough toys so that the toys can be rotated through cleanings.
- Children's books, like other paper-based materials such as mail or envelopes, are not considered a high risk for transmission and do not need additional cleaning or disinfection procedures.

Washing, Feeding, or Holding a Child

It is important to comfort crying, sad, and/or anxious children, and they often need to be held. To the extent possible, when washing, feeding, or holding very young children:

- Staff can protect themselves by wearing an over-large button-down, long sleeved shirt and by wearing long hair up off the collar in a ponytail or other up do.
- Staff should wash their hands, neck, and anywhere touched by a child's secretions.
- Staff 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 staff should have multiple changes of clothes on hand in the child care center.
- Staff should wash their hands before and after handling infant bottles 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.

Group Size

Group size during the Covid-19 Pandemic is to limit no more than 9 children and 1 teacher in a classroom.

Hand washing

All children, staff, and volunteers should engage in hand hygiene at the following times

- Arrival to the facility and after breaks
- Before and after preparing food or drinks
- Before and after eating or handling food, or feeding children
- Before and after administering medication or medical ointment
- After diapering
- After using the toilet or helping a child use the bathroom
- After coming in contact with bodily fluid
- After handling animals or cleaning up animal waste
- After playing outdoors or in sand
- After handling garbage
- After blowing one's nose, coughing, or sneezing
- After using the restroom
- Before coming in contact with any child
- After touching or cleaning surfaces that may be contaminated
- After using shared equipment like toys, computer keyboards, mouse, scissors, pens. etc.
- All staff and children must adhere to regular hand washing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds
 - Turn water on and wet hands, remove from water
 - Add soap to hands and create friction to make bubbles
 - Scrub for 20 seconds, sing Happy Birthday or ABC's
 - Staff member should use a scrub brush under nails
 - Rinse hands under running water
 - Dry hands with single use paper towels
 - Turn off faucet with paper towels

Alcohol based sanitizers

Use of an alcohol based hand sanitizer should only be practiced when soap and water method is not available. If a child needs to use an alcohol based sanitizer, an adult/staff member must be physically present to observe and guide the child in proper use.

Respiratory Hygiene

- All staff should cough and sneeze with tissues or in the corner of the elbow
- Anna's House children when appropriate should cover coughs and sneezes with tissues or the corner of the elbow
- Dispose of soiled tissues immediately after use

Eliminating transmission points

- Reduce common touch points by opening internal doors where possible.
- Frequent cleaning of all touch points.
- Secure all secondary doors and access points to minimize incidental contact.
- Disposable wipes will be used to wipe down commonly used surfaces (for example, doorknobs, keyboards, remote controls, desks, other work tools and equipment).
- Staff should not share phones, desks, or other work tools and equipment, when possible. If shared, clean and disinfect equipment before and after use.
- Employees should clean their personal workspace at the beginning and the end of every shift.
- If a sick employee is suspected or confirmed to have COVID-19, follow the CDC cleaning and disinfection recommendations.

Staff Meetings

Meetings that require close contact have been postponed during Covid-19 or held outdoors and with appropriate spacing.

Essential functions and reliance that the community may need us for our services

- Anna's House Preschools is prepared to change our business practice to maintain critical operations this may include enrolling on a temporary basis children of various ages of essential personal
- Anna's House Preschools will identify alternate supply chains for critical goods and services. Some goods and services may be in higher demand or unavailable. If for some reason there is not adequate PPE for a child care center, cleaning supplies or paper supplies, the director or her designee will close the center until proper materials have arrived
 - Currently, the best defense to Covid-19 is hand washing therefore, using gloves all day everyday could become the false security therefore gloved hands will be reserve for the following times
 - Universal Precautions
 - Diaper changing
 - Nose blowing
 - Garbage removal
- The Director or her designee will communicate often with companies including fire and safety that enter the building about the importance of sick employees staying home.
 - Anna's House Preschools procedure for these persons to enter the building
 - Visitors conducting business must wear a mask
 - Director or her designee will take visitors temperature
 - The visitor will complete a questionnaire form
 - The visitor will follow all hand washing procedures
- Center tours will not be conducted during the pandemic, visitors will not be allowed into the building. Virtual tours will be posted on our website instead so that we may continue to register for the fall at this time.

Center Family/Staff Communication Plan

- Communication is important for all center staff and families. Regular communication will continue through email by the director, through KidReports as well as face to face from teachers.

Procedure for Anna's House Preschools to operate if absenteeism spikes amongst staff

While assuring that same staff person is to remain with the same children over the course of the day it is understandable that absenteeism may increase in employees, those who stay home to care for sick family members, and those who must stay home to watch their children if dismissed from [childcare programs and K-12 schools](#).

- Anna's House Preschools will plan to monitor and respond to absenteeism at the workplace to provide consistency for families and children
- Prepare to institute flexible workplace and leave policies.
- Cross-train staff to perform essential functions so the workplace can operate even if key employees are absent.

Reduced work

- All staff schedules will be adjusted based on enrollment and requirements to keep the same teacher in the same classroom each day.

Acceptance of new procedures for children/families/staff

Anna's House School

Anyone who is using the center must read, sign, agree and follow the policy and procedures in order to participate in Anna's House Preschools programs.

At this time all staff and children will be required to wear either the shield/mask or a two ply mask in the school unless there is a medical reason that prevents an individual from wearing one of these two devices.

I have read and fully understand Anna's House Preschools policy and procedures for Covid-19. I also understand that this document can be changed at any time with or without notice by the director or Anna's House Preschools management.

I understand that the safety, health and the well-being of children, families, and staff rely on my due diligence to keep myself and family following Social Distancing rules set by the Governor at any given time.

Family/Staff Signature

Date

In an effort to minimize bringing germs into the center we ask that parents provide:

1. A pair of shoes to be kept at the school during this time, closed toed to play, no boots, flip flops or sandals
2. Extra set of clothing for all children
3. Two to three masks to be kept in their backpack and replaced and cleaned as needed.

Please do not send:

1. Toys from home
2. Blankets or lovies

Teachers please bring a minimal amount of items from home.

Additional shirts should be available to change into throughout the day. Please put on the oversized shirt provided upon arrival to the school - this can be over what you are wearing or you may change.

Children and staff shoes will be kept in the front entrance of the school and can be changed back into when leaving. All shoes will be sprayed down with disinfectant.