



COVID-19 GUIDANCE: Associated Students Child Development

June 5, 2020

covid19.ca.gov



OVERVIEW

As stay-at-home orders are lifted for multiple industries to promote California's economic recovery, the needs of Chico State parenting students for child care and other supports for families has increased. The Associated Students Child Development Lab (ASCDL) developed a plan to minimize the spread of COVID-19 and to ensure the safety of children, employees, and families. As the ASCDL begins to provide care, all employees will be trained on the updated policies and requirements. All families and employees will sign acknowledgments and release of liabilities.

The California Department of Social Services (CDSS) and California Department of Education (CDE) regulate the ASCDL. Both agencies continually send updates as the regulations or guidance change in conjunction with our local County Public Health Department and the Center of Disease control (CDC). In addition to regulatory agencies, ASCDL maintains exceptionally high standards for quality care as the center is accredited through the National Association for the Education of Young Children and is rated at the highest rating for quality child care through the Butte County of Office of Education.

Regulatory agencies acknowledge social distancing with young children is a challenging effort. The recommendations set forth aim to keep children and providers safe and healthy, while ensuring children are in a nurturing and responsive environment. Families will receive initial training on the policies and procedures, and be provided with ongoing communications. May also be concerned about the safety of returning children back to care. This ongoing communication will aid in supporting with this new transition and social and physical distancing practice. Initially, the center will begin serving families with a soft opening where employees, families, and children are slowly transitioned back into child care with supports and time to embed the new procedures that will ensure proper social distancing, hygiene and health practices.

Prior to re-opening the center environment will be thoroughly cleaned and sanitized, marked for social distancing and stocked with Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) for employees, EPA approved disinfectants/sanitizers, and hygiene supplies.

These guidelines and considerations are based on the best available public health data at this time, and the practical realities of managing a child care program; as new data and practices emerge, the guidance will be updated.

The California Department of Social Services (CDSS) worked in collaboration with the California Department of Education (CDE) to develop this guidance.

Target date to resume on campus service is August 17, 2020.

Essential Protective Equipment and Supplies

Items	Child Care Workforce	Children
<u>Cloth Face Coverings*</u>	YES	<p>Never place face coverings on babies or children under 2 because of danger of suffocation</p> <p>Some counties require children over the age of 2 to wear facial coverings in places of businesses e.g. child care facilities</p>
Gloves	YES, for tasks such as serving food, handling trash, or using cleaning and disinfectant products	NO
<p>Hand Sanitizer Should contain at least 60% ethyl alcohol (preferred) or at least 70% isopropyl alcohol (a neurotoxin and eye irritant).</p>	YES, OPTIONAL Note that frequent handwashing is more effective than the use of hand sanitizers	<p>May be used under adult supervision only and must be kept out of children's reach. Call Poison Control if consumed: 800-222-1222</p> <p>Note that frequent handwashing is more effective than use of hand sanitizers. Sanitizer must be rubbed into children's hands until completely dry.</p> <p>Hand sanitizer is not recommended for children under 24 months.</p>
Disinfectant Cleaning Products	YES Provide training and required protective equipment per manufacturer's recommendations. Must be kept out of children's reach.	NO

*Masks or face shields may also be worn. Note that local guidance may apply. Please consult recommendations from the local or county health department.

The Healthy Schools Act requires that anyone using disinfectants at child care centers complete annual California Department of Pesticide Regulation-approved training. Online training can be found by going to <https://apps.cdpr.ca.gov/schoolipm/>. This does not apply to family child care homes.



Planning

- The ASCDL has created health and safety protocols to protect and support staff, children, and their family Individuals who are at higher risk for severe illness will limit time the facility in addition to following all health and safety precautions put in place.
- Face to face Information sharing and communications with families will be minimal. Teachers and administration will use varied digital modalities to maintain communication and deliver information. A zoom will occur to review guidelines, policies, practices and procedures. Classroom teachers will conduct individual family orientations at scheduled times on August 17th & 18th.
- All center events, family meetings, family conferences and classroom participation will be offered via digital modality. Childcare will not be provided for Zoom parent conferences.
- Observation rooms will not be open
- All staff and communicate with families on the following:
 - Enhanced sanitation practices
 - Physical distancing guidelines
 - Use of face coverings
 - Screening practices
 - COVID-19 specific exclusion criteria.



Cleaning

- ASCDL will Introduce fresh outdoor air as much as possible by opening windows. When cleaning, air out the space before children arrive; plan to do thorough cleaning when children are not present.
- Implement procedures to frequently [clean and disinfect](#) all high-touch surfaces, such as sink knobs, toilet handles, tables, door handles.
- Designate a container for toys that need to be cleaned, sanitized, or disinfected before being introduced back into the classroom environment.
- Have multiple toys and manipulatives accessible that are easy to clean and disinfect throughout the day or provide individually labeled bins with

toys and belongings for each child. Toys that may be put in a child's mouth should be cleaned and sanitized. Ensure toys that are difficult to clean (e.g. soft toys) are either removed from the classroom or carefully monitored for use by individual children only.

- We will use approved disinfectants against COVID-19 on the [Environmental Protection Agency \(EPA\)-approved list “N”](#) and follow product instructions.
 - To reduce the risk of asthma related to disinfecting, we will aim to select disinfectant products on the N list with asthma-safer ingredients (hydrogen peroxide, citric acid or lactic acid).
 - Use disinfectants labeled to be effective against emerging viral pathogens, following label directions for appropriate dilution rates and contact times. Provide employees training on manufacturer's directions, on Cal/OSHA requirements for safe use and as required by the Healthy Schools Act training (for child care centers only).
 - All products will be kept out of children's reach.



Hygiene

- Implement and enforce strict [handwashing guidelines](#) for all staff and children. Wash hands for 20 seconds with soap, rubbing thoroughly after application, and use paper towels (or single use cloth towels) to dry hands thoroughly. It may be helpful to sing a 20-second song while children wash.
- Use bathroom time as an opportunity to reinforce healthy habits and monitor proper handwashing.
- Teach children to avoid [contact with one's eyes, nose and mouth](#), and use tissue to wipe their nose and to [cough/sneeze](#) inside their elbow. Model and practice wearing face coverings and handwashing before and after eating, after coughing or sneezing, after playing outside, and after using the restroom.
- Discontinue brushing teeth during class.
- Only bring a change of clothes to be labeled and kept separately in their cubby. Personal toys, items and blankets should be left at home.

- We will provide bedding (sheets, pillows, blankets, sleeping bags) that can be washed at the ASCDL. We will keep each child's bedding separate. Cots and mats will be labeled for each child. Bedding that touches a child's skin should be cleaned weekly or before use by another child.



Arrival/Departure Procedures

- parents/caregivers will meet a staff member at the classroom-designated entryway for pick-up and drop-off of children and will be as brief as possible. Social distancing markers will be placed to maintain a 6ft distance.
- There will be a designated timeframe and a cutoff for drop off.
- Hand sanitizer out of the reach of children, Will be located near entry doors and other high traffic areas.
- Social distancing protocols will be used to reduce contact between children and adults, including other children's parents during pick-up/drop-off, classroom visits, volunteers.
- If possible, the same parent/caregiver should drop off and pick up the child every day, avoid designating those at high risk.
 - A designated staff member from each classroom will escort children in or out of the classroom and sign them in and out for the day.



Health Screening

- Staff will conduct visual wellness checks of all children upon arrival and ask health questions when concerned. We will take children's temperature each morning with a no-touch thermometer.
- Staff and children will be monitored throughout the day for signs of illness; send home children with a fever of 100.4 degrees or higher, cough, or other COVID-19 symptoms after isolating from the general room population and notify parents.

Exclusion from Program

- If an individual becomes ill due to COVID-19, they must return only after being released by a medical professional, and under the following circumstances:
 - At least 3 days (72 hours) have passed since the individual last had a fever without the use of fever-reducing medicines AND
 - Improvement in respiratory symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath) AND
 - At least ten days have passed since the symptoms first appeared.



Coronavirus Symptoms

- Fever
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Chills
- Repeated shaking with chills
- Muscle pain
- Headache
- Sore throat
- New loss of taste or smell



Group Size and Staffing

- Children will remain in small group sizes not to exceed more than 10 in the preschool classroom and 5 in the infant and toddler classroom.
- The same children and teachers will remain with the same group of children.



Classroom Space / Physical Distancing

- We will arrange developmentally appropriate activities for smaller group activities and rearrange furniture and play spaces to maintain 6 feet of separation, when possible.
- For napping, cots, cribs, and mats 6 feet apart, with heads in opposite directions.
- We will use opportunities to reduce time spend indoors by bringing children outside, weather permitting while maintaining physical distancing.
- We will offer more opportunities for individual play.

- We will plan activities that do not require close physical contact between multiple children.
- We will stagger indoor and outdoor play and adjust schedules to reduce the number of children in the same area.
- We will ensure all outdoor play equipment is cleaned and disinfected between use by different groups of children.
- We have developed spacing instructions in both indoor and outdoor spaces that are developmentally appropriate and easy for children to understand.



Meal Times

- We will utilize more tables to spread children out or use name cards to ensure adequate spacing of children.
- We will practice proper handwashing before and after eating. Use paper goods and disposable plastic utensils when possible, following CDC and CDPH COVID-19 food handling guidelines.
- We will not allow children or staff to share or touch each other's food.
- We will immediately clean and disinfect trays and tables after meals. Avoid family- or cafeteria-style meals, ask staff to handle utensils, and keep food covered to avoid contamination.
- We will ensure meals are provided in individual portions and are delivered by staff wearing gloves.
- We will implement outdoor meal times if space and weather allow.



Resources

- California Department of Social Services, Community Care Licensing, Child Care Page: <https://www.cdss.ca.gov/inforesources/child-care-licensing>
- California Division of Occupational Safety and Health (Cal/OSHA): <https://www.dir.ca.gov/dosh/Coronavirus/COVID-19-Infection-Prevention-in-Childcare-Programs-Guidance.pdf>
- California Coronavirus (COVID-19) Resources: <https://covid19.ca.gov/>
- [California Department of Pesticide Regulation Health Schools Act](#)

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC):
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/guidance-for-childcare.html>

