National Center on
Afterschool and Summer Enrichment

Early Childhood
National Centers

COVID-19 Emergency Preparedness, Response, and Recovery Resources

The outbreak of COVID-19 raises concerns for out-of-school time (OST) programs/providers and any environment where school-age children may be present. The resources below offer examples of effective guidance for programs and present matters that programs/providers should consider.

It is important to regularly check local guidance, which includes information from

- Department of Health for your state and/or municipality
- Agency that regulates or licenses your program
- Your school district

Preparedness

CDC's Guidance for Operating Child Care Programs during COVID-19

This guidance is updated regularly to provide child care providers with the latest information about COVID-19 to support planning. This CDC guidance is meant to supplement—not replace—any federal, state, tribal, local, or territorial public health and safety laws, rules, and regulations with which child care programs must comply.

Field Guide for Camps on Implementation of CDC Guidance

This field guide is designed to provide camp directors and staff with a practical guide and toolkit to implement specific recommendations provided by the CDC in relation to risk reduction at camps. The objective of this field guide is to provide educational materials for camp staff to reduce potential exposures to and spread of the severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2), the virus that causes COVID-19.

Norovirus Toolkit for School and Childcare Center Outbreaks

The California Department of Public Health developed this toolkit to assist local health department employees who investigate suspected and confirmed norovirus outbreaks in schools and childcare settings. The preparation and considerations are applicable to reference for other virus outbreaks, like COVID-19. While the target audience is local health departments, parts of the toolkit may be useful for school and childcare staff as well.

[Sample School District Pandemic Plan](#)

The Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction developed this guidance document for school districts to prepare and respond to pandemic outbreaks. The plan includes guidance for outbreaks ranging from endemics, to outbreaks of greater severity including a pandemic. The information in this plan supplements the school district's existing emergency plans.

Response

[Child Care, Youth Development, and Summer Day Camps During the Covid-19 Outbreak](#)

The Washington Department of Health provides comprehensive yet concise guidance for programs that are open or reopening amid the COVID-19 virus.

[SEL for Children and Adults during COVID-19](#)

CASEL urges continued focus on the social and emotional needs of children and adults as the world responds to COVID-19. This document provides suggestions for addressing social and emotional needs as part of a district's response plan, which are applicable to OST programs.

[To Process Grief over COVID-19, Children Need Empathetic Listening](#)

This *Scientific American* article provides helpful advice on assisting children in processing COVID-19 related grief, like death and loss of contact with family, friends, teachers, and other familiar people.

[Grief Support and Empathetic Language to Help School Communities](#)

ExpandED Schools of New York, NY, presented this webinar on the Zoom platform to share information about the grief and COVID-19 safety needs of children for teachers, and caregivers, etc.

Recovery

[Pandemic Recovery Considerations: Re-entry and Reopening of Schools](#)

The Missouri School Board's Association's Center for Education Safety created a template to guide local discussion regarding reopening schools. It is not a "one size, fits all" document. The template provides examples of protocols schools could implement, if feasible, during a "phased-in approach" to bringing students and staff back to school.

Pandemic Recovery Framework

The San Mateo County Coalition for Safe Schools and Communities developed this framework for local education agencies operating school sites for children in grades preschool to twelfth grade. While OST programs may have other and/or multiple regulatory agencies, this guidance can be helpful.

Maryland Together: Maryland's Recovery Plan for Child Care

In May the Maryland State Department of Education released Maryland Together: Maryland's Recovery Plan for Education. These efforts in collaboration with Maryland's child care system are critical as many elementary schools have child care programs that are co-located on the school site or operate as before or afterschool programs. As schools begin to reopen, they will depend upon child care services, as they always have. This drives the creation of this recovery guidance for child care.