



**GOVERNMENT OF
THE VIRGIN ISLANDS OF THE UNITED STATES**

**VIRGIN ISLANDS DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER**

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Daycare Centers / HeadStart Guidance

They have remained open throughout if they could meet certain Criteria

- Only 10 individuals including the teacher/staff
- with adequate space for physical distancing
- Daily temps of children and staff
- No child or staff to come to the center with symptoms

Encourage staff to take everyday preventive actions to prevent the spread of respiratory illness.

Wash hands often with soap and water. If soap and water are not readily available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.

Always wash hands with soap and water if hands are visibly dirty.

Remember to supervise young children when they use hand sanitizer to prevent swallowing alcohol.

Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces.

Cover cough and sneezes.

Cover your mouth and nose with a cloth face covering when you have to go out in public.

Cloth face coverings should NOT be put on babies and children under age two because of the danger of suffocation.

Require sick children and staff to stay home.

Communicate to parents the importance of keeping children home when they are sick.

Social Distancing Strategies

Work with your local health officials to determine a set of strategies appropriate for your community's situation. Continue using preparedness strategies and consider the following social distancing strategies:

If possible, child care classes should include the same group each day, and the same child care providers should remain with the same group each day. If your child care program

remains open, consider creating a separate classroom or group for the children of healthcare workers and other first responders. If your program is unable to create a separate classroom, consider serving only the children of healthcare workers and first responders.

Cancel or postpone special events such as festivals, holiday events, and special performances.

Consider whether to 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.

If possible, at nap time, ensure that children's naptime mats (or cribs) are spaced out as much as possible, ideally 6 feet apart. Consider placing children head to toe in order to further reduce the potential for viral spread.

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. Your plan for curb side drop off and pick up should limit direct contact between parents and staff members and adhere to social distancing recommendations.

If possible, arrange for administrative staff to telework from their homes.

Parent Drop-Off and Pick-Up

Hand hygiene stations should be set up at the entrance of the facility, so that children can clean their hands before they enter. If a sink with soap and water is not available, provide hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol next to parent sign-in sheets. Keep hand sanitizer out of children's reach and supervise use. If possible, place sign-in stations outside, and provide sanitary wipes for cleaning pens between each use.

Consider staggering arrival and drop off times and plan to limit direct contact with parents as much as possible.

Have child care providers greet children outside as they arrive.

Designate a parent to be the drop off/pick up volunteer to walk all children to their classroom, and at the end of the day, walk all children back to their cars.

Infants could be transported in their car seats. Store car seat out of children's reach.

Ideally, 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.

Screen Children Upon Arrival (if possible)

Persons who have a fever of 100.40 (38.00C) or above or other signs of illness should not be admitted to the facility. Encourage parents to be on the alert for signs of illness in their children and to keep them home when they are sick. Screen children upon arrival, if possible.