



April 15, 2020

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Day Care Facilities for Adults

**FROM:** Gwen C. Thompson, Director of Healthcare Quality

**SUBJECT:** Infection Control Recommendations for Day Care Facilities for Adults

On March 13, 2020, Governor Henry McMaster issued Executive Order No. 2020-08, which declared a State of Emergency in South Carolina based on the determination that the 2019 novel coronavirus (“COVID-19”) was an imminent public health threat, and directed the Department of Health and Environmental Control (“DHEC”) to use the emergency powers set forth in the Emergency Health Powers Act, Title 44, Chapter 4 of the South Carolina Code of Laws, to promptly and effectively address the public health emergency. Subsequently, on March 17, 2020, Governor McMaster issued Executive Order No. 2020-10, which directed state agencies to take appropriate actions regarding provisions of existing regulations that in any way prevent, hinder, or delay necessary action in coping with the emergency. On March 28, 2020 and April 12, 2020, Governor McMaster issued Executive Orders No. 2020-15 and 2020-23, respectively, which further extended the State of Emergency.

Section 801 of Regulation 61-75, *Standards for Licensing Day Care Facilities for Adults*, states: “The facility shall provide adequate space, equipment, and staff in the facility to assure protection of all participants and staff against cross-infection.”

In coordination with DHEC’s Healthcare-Associated Infections (HAI) Program, Healthcare Quality encourages facilities to carefully review the [current CDC infection control recommendations](#) regarding participants who require or may require evaluation for COVID-19 and determine a set of strategies to adhere to current social distancing guidance. For example, day care facilities for adults may choose to remain open to support their communities by providing temporary or emergency day care services for dependent adults of critical infrastructure workers, such as first responders, healthcare workers, transit or retail food workers.

To mitigate the risk of spreading COVID-19, open day care facilities for adults should implement the following infection control and preparedness measures:

- **Screenings:**
  - Screen yourself, staff, vendors, and participants, all of whom should not be entering transportation vehicles or facilities if they show any risk factors of COVID-19. These risk factors include:
    - Symptoms, such as having a fever, a cough, shortness of breath, or a sore throat.
    - Recent travel to areas experiencing known transmissions of COVID-19.
    - Close contact with a person suspected or known to have COVID-19 in the past fourteen (14) days.
  - If signs or symptoms of a respiratory infection (see symptoms listed above) develop while a participant or staff member is on-site, then the person should put on a mask and leave the facility. Encourage these individuals to seek medical attention.
  
- **Proper Facility Precautions:**
  - Keep logs of names and contact information of all staff, participants, visitors, and vendors, in case they need to be contacted by DHEC officials.
  - Post signs throughout the facility encouraging hand hygiene, respiratory etiquette, and avoiding touching your face with unwashed hands.
  - Post signs at entryways instructing all individuals not to enter if they have any symptoms of a respiratory illness (i.e., fever or cough).
  - Place alcohol-based hand sanitizers (ABHS) at all entry points and other high activity areas of the building.
    - Wash hands with soap and water for twenty (20) seconds when they are visibly soiled or when using or assisting someone to the toilet.
    - Assist participants and visitors with hand hygiene, if necessary.
  - Keep restrooms stocked with soap and disposable paper towels.
    - Use non-touch disposal receptacles with liners, if possible.
  - Routinely clean all frequently touched surfaces within the facility (e.g., doorknobs, light switches, handrails, bathroom fixtures, countertops, tables, chairs, elevator buttons, workstations, workout room equipment, dining condiment containers, etc.). Use an EPA-registered disinfectant and follow cleaning directions on the label.
  
- **Precautions specific to participants/visitors:**
  - Provide education on proper hand hygiene, respiratory etiquette, and social distancing of at least six (6) feet from other individuals.
  - Minimize group dining by having as much distance between participants as possible, at least six (6) feet apart, and do not allow individuals to serve themselves from large trays of food using common serving utensils.
  - Cancel large group gatherings and encourage smaller gatherings where individuals can be active and engaged while practicing increased hand hygiene, respiratory etiquette, and social distancing.

- **Precautions specific to staff/employees:**
  - Staff should practice standard precautions during all participant interactions (see screening section above for guidance on what to do if staff needs to assist sick participants).
  - Require appropriate hand hygiene with ABHS before and after all participant/visitor contact. Use soap and water if hands are visibly soiled or when otherwise indicated.
  - Require staff members to stay home for the appropriate amount of time if they are ill and encourage them to seek medical care. They may return to work when they are cleared by their physician.
  - Staff should avoid unnecessary out of state or international travel and avoid large gatherings or crowds.
  
- **Organizational preparedness plans:**
  - Develop or review business continuity plans for how to keep critical services going if staffing levels drop due to illness or when caring for an ill family member(s) or children that are out of school.
  - Be prepared to change practices as needed to maintain critical operations (e.g., prioritize participants or temporarily suspend some services or group activities, if needed).
  - Develop guidance to cross train staff to perform essential functions so the facility can operate if key staff are absent.
  - Have an inventory of essential supplies (i.e., ABHS, soap, paper towels, tissues, cleaning supplies, disposable gloves, etc.) to determine when more will be needed.
  - Develop guidance to continue providing needs to your participants if your facility should need to close (i.e. plans to deliver food to participants that eat meals at your facility, etc.).

It is important to ensure policies and practices are in place to reduce exposure to respiratory pathogens. To prevent any virus, all individuals (including but not limited to staff, participants, and visitors) are advised to take the following steps:

- **Perform hand hygiene frequently;**
- **Adhere to respiratory hygiene and cough etiquette; and**
- **Stay home when experiencing symptoms of illness.**

Day care facilities for adults are encouraged to continue checking the official DHEC COVID-19 Web Page for Healthcare Facilities, available [here](#), to stay updated on all current guidance and memos.

## **Additional COVID-19 Resources: Day Care Facilities for Adults**

### **Who to Contact if You Have Questions:**

Call the DHEC Careline at 1-855-472-3432

### **Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC):**

[DHEC COVID-19 Education & Outreach Materials](#)

[DHEC COVID-19 Interim Guidance for Businesses](#)

[SC DHEC COVID-19 Web Page](#)

### **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC):**

[CDC's COVID-19 Print Resources](#)

[CDC's Guidance for Mass Gatherings or Large Community Events](#)

[CDC's How to Protect Yourself Web Page](#)

[CDC's Interim Guidance for Businesses and Employers to Plan and Respond to Coronavirus Disease 2019](#)

[CDC's List of EPA Registered Disinfectants for COVID-19](#)