

# Phase Three Child Care Guidance

July 1, 2020



# Agenda

- Welcome and Overview
- Phase Three Child Care Guidance Briefing
- Navigating COVID-19: Perspective from Providers

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# **EARLY CHILDHOOD UPDATE FOR PHASE III**

## **JULY 1, 2020**

# OVERVIEW

- Current Situation
- Key Updates
  - Phase III Guidance: Key Changes for Child Care and Day Camps
  - Reminder: Facial Coverings
  - Contact Tracing in Child Care
  - Preparing for Phase III and Additional CARES Act Funding

# CURRENT SITUATION IN THE COMMONWEALTH

- As of 6/29/2020,
  - 45% of child centers are open
  - 42% of religious exempt preschools are open
  - 83% of family day homes are open
- Altogether, ~2,300 child care programs are closed - a **loss in capacity of ~180,000.**
- **~600 programs have indicated that they have a reopening date.**
- Child care is allowed to be **open for all working families** and child care educators are **essential.**
- Current priority areas:
  1. Ensuring there is enough **child care as all types of personnel return to work**
  2. Using the **\$70 million in CARES Act Child Care funding** to support the field
- 2,364 programs have been approved for the **CARES Grant for April – June.**
- Important note: financial losses experienced far exceed new federal funding available.

# PHASE III GUIDANCE: KEY POINTS

On June 25, the Department of Social Services issued [guidance](#) for child care and day camps in preparation for Phase III.

- Similar to general state guidance, these guidelines focus on physical distancing, enhanced cleaning and disinfection and enhanced safety best practices including use of facial coverings. Here are key points:
  1. **Group Size (see next slide)**
    - Group size requirements are the same as Phase II. The same staff and children should consistently remain in the same groups to the greatest extent possible.
  2. **Swimming Pools and Water Activities**
    - Phase III allows free swim in addition to instruction and exercise, provided 10 feet of physical distance is maintained between children not of the same household. Use of interactive water features, splash pads, wading pools, etc. is prohibited.
  3. **Field Trips**
    - While it is recommended that programs continue to delay participation in field trips, inter-group events, and extracurricular activities, if a program chooses to schedule these activities, there are a few additional guidelines apply related to social distancing, transportation and cleaning/sanitation.

# PHASE III GUIDANCE: GROUP SIZES

**Virginia will maintain groups sizes to enable our providers to serve more children responsibly, address the developmental needs of children and protect children, families and staff.**

- Group size limit remains 12 (including staff) for children under 4 years old provided age-based adult:child ratios are followed.
- For children age four and above, including school-age children up to age 13, group size maximum is 22 (including staff) as long as social distancing of six feet apart is maintained. Age-based adult:child ratios must be followed.
- Groups of children may share the same physical space (e.g. classroom, gymnasium) so long as social distancing of six feet can be maintained and children do not mix between groups.
- Outdoor play is encouraged and groups of children can play outside at the same time if social distancing of six feet apart is maintained and children do not mix between groups.

<https://www.dss.virginia.gov/cc/covid-19.html>



# REMINDER: FACIAL COVERINGS

Facial coverings can help keep Virginians safe. [Executive Order 63](#) *requires* facial coverings in certain circumstance while CDC and state guidance *recommends* use of facial coverings.

| Who <b>MUST</b> wear facial coverings  | Who <b>SHOULD</b> wear facial coverings  | Who <b>MAY</b> wear facial coverings  | Who <b>SHOULD NOT</b> wear facial coverings   |
|--|--|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Family members who enter child care and camp facilities.</li> <li>Other visitors to child care and camp facilities.*</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All staff and children over the age of two, when feasible, <b>when 1) inside and 2) unable to maintain social distancing of at least six feet.</b></li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Staff and children over the age of two may wear facial coverings <b>outside and/or in socially-distanced settings inside</b> if required by their program or desired by families.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Children age two and under.</li> <li>Anyone who is sleeping.</li> <li>Anyone who has trouble breathing, or is incapacitated or otherwise unable to remove the cover without assistance.</li> </ul> |

*\*Outside visitors are strongly discouraged unless essential*

# CONTACT TRACING IN CHILD CARE

**Through a three-agency partnership, Virginia will trace contacts to reduce the spread of COVID 19. Learn more about the partnership [here](#).**

- Centers and homes should continue to work with local health departments to support public health case investigations and contact tracing. Be sure to contact your health department if there are any confirmed cases or questions at your site.
- Virginia Department of Health (VDH) will make every attempt to locate and interview the case-patient quickly and will then work with the case-patient and/or family and/or staff to identify all contacts. VDH staff then follow up to make all contacts and referrals and monitor the situation.
- Programs should identify a point person and be prepared to identify individuals who were within 6 feet of the child, staff person or other individual for 15 minutes or more, especially when COVID 19 restrictions are in place. VDH staff might need information about different areas within the school or child care setting and who was in the area at a given time or locating information for identified children or staff associated with the facility.
- VDH has established procedures to balance protecting confidentiality and sharing information carefully.

# MANAGING PHASE III

**In partnership with the Virginia Department of Health, the Department of Social Services and Department of Education will support programs during Phase III.**

- State continues to ensure all reopening guidelines and timelines reflect broad public-private stakeholder input.
- Public health officials are involved at every stage in order to ensure keep children, families and providers safe.
- Stakeholders have indicated that financial impact of COVID 19 continues to be significant challenge; state will soon announce how additional CARES Act funds can be used to support the field July – September.

<https://www.dss.virginia.gov/cc/covid-19.html>



# Navigating COVID-19: Perspective from Providers

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# Questions?

