

Pandemic Policy

COVID-19

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Childcare is a critical part of the public health emergency response team

Introduction

The virus is thought to spread mainly from person-to-person.

- Between people who are in close contact with one another (within about 6 feet).
- Through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs, sneezes or talks.
- These droplets can land in the mouths or noses of people who are nearby or possibly be inhaled into the lungs.
- Some recent studies have suggested that COVID-19 may be spread by people who are not showing symptoms.

Knowing these facts, HSSEE and Beyond have implemented many new safety measures for families, children and teachers to follow so that we are an important part of reducing the spread and keeping everyone as healthy as possible.

Social Distancing Strategies

HSSEE and BEYOND staff and families will work with the local health officials to determine a set of strategies appropriate for HSSEE and BEYOND. We will use preparedness strategies and consider the following social distancing strategies that may/may not be implemented at some point of time during Covid-19:

- If possible, childcare classes should include the same group each day, and the same childcare providers should remain with the same group each day. If your childcare 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.
- Consider staggering arrival and drop off times and/or have childcare 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.

Guideline for onset of illness at HSSEE and BEYOND

Child

- If a child becomes sick during the day. The first teacher will remove child to the front office and keep child comfortable until the family can arrive.
- The front-end staff member will immediately call the child's family and request an immediate pick up.

Employee

- Employees who appear to have symptoms (i.e., fever, cough, or shortness of breath) upon arrival at work or who become sick during the day should immediately be separated from other employees, children, and visitors and sent home.
- If an employee is confirmed to have COVID-19 infection, employers should inform fellow employees of their possible exposure to COVID-19 in the workplace but maintain confidentiality as required by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The fellow employees should then self-monitor for symptoms (i.e., fever, cough, or shortness of breath).

Guidelines for onset of illness while at home

Child

- If a child becomes sick at home with any symptoms, cough, fever, muscle aches, generally not feeling well, we ask that you notify us and keep your child at home. Follow our current Illness Policy to understand the return to school policy. If symptoms are consistent with Covid-19, please phone your child's pediatrician and ask for guidance. Please phone us and share that guidance so that HSSEE and BEYOND will know how to proceed with our next steps of notifying the proper and required people, and/or authorities.

Employee

- Stay home: Most people with COVID-19 have mild illness and are able to recover at home without medical care. Do not leave your home, except to get medical care. Do not visit public areas.
- Stay in touch with your doctor
- Stay away from others: As much as possible stay away from others. You should stay in a specific "sick room" if possible, and away from other people and pets in your home. Use a separate bathroom, if available.
- If you develop emergency warning signs for COVID-19 get medical attention immediately. Emergency warning signs include*:
 - Trouble breathing
 - Persistent pain or pressure in the chest
 - New confusion or inability to arouse
 - Bluish lips or face

Family member

- If caring for a sick household member, follow recommended precautions and monitor your own health
- Have the person stay in one room, away from other people, including yourself, as much as possible.
 - If possible, have them use a separate bathroom.
 - Avoid sharing personal household items, like dishes, towels, and bedding
 - Have them wear a cloth face covering (that covers their nose and mouth) when they are around people, including you.
 - If the sick person can't wear a cloth face covering, you should wear one while in the same room with them.
 - If the sick person needs to be around others (within the home, in a vehicle, or doctor's office), they should wear a cloth face covering that covers their mouth and nose.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after interacting with the sick person. If soap and water are not readily available, use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol. Cover all surfaces of your hands and rub them together until they feel dry.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Every day, clean all surfaces that are touched often, like counters, tabletops, and doorknobs
 - Use household cleaning sprays or wipes according to the label instructions.
- Wash laundry thoroughly.
 - If laundry is soiled, wear disposable gloves and keep the soiled items away from your body while laundering. Wash your hands immediately after removing gloves.
- Avoid having any unnecessary visitors.
- For any additional questions about their care, contact their healthcare provider or state or local health department.

Keep surfaces disinfected

- Avoid sharing personal items

- Monitor for emergency signs, prevent the spread of germs, treat symptoms, and carefully consider when to end home isolation.

Children/Staff who have had close contact with a person with symptoms or diagnosed with COVID-19

- Children who have symptoms should stay home
- Employees who have symptoms (i.e., fever, cough, or shortness of breath) should notify their supervisor and stay home.
- Sick employees should follow CDC-recommended steps. Employees should not return to work until the criteria to discontinue home isolation are met, in consultation with healthcare providers and state and local health departments.
- Employees who are well but who have a sick family member at home with COVID-19 should notify their supervisor and follow CDC recommended precautions.
- If an employee is confirmed to have COVID-19 infection, employers should inform fellow employees of their possible exposure to COVID-19 in the workplace but maintain confidentiality as required by the Americans with Disabilities Act. Fellow employees should then self-monitor for symptoms (i.e., fever, cough, or shortness of breath).
- Employees should not return to work until the criteria to end home isolation is met as instructed in consultation with healthcare providers and state and local health departments.

Children/Staff with COVID-19 who have home isolated can stop isolation with these conditions

- If a test will not be administered to determine if you are still contagious, children and staff can return to HSSEE and BEYOND after these three things have happened:
 - No fever for at least 72 hours (that is three full days of no fever without the use medicine that reduces fevers)
AND
 - other symptoms have improved (for example, when cough or shortness of breath have improved)
AND
 - at least 7 days have passed since symptoms first appeared
- If a test is required to determine if person is still contagious, children or staff can return to HSSEE & Beyond after these three things have happened:
 - No fever (without the use medicine that reduces fevers)
AND
 - No other symptoms for 72 hours (for example, when cough or shortness of breath have improved)
AND
 - It has been at least 10 days since symptoms first appeared

If HSSEE or BEYOND has a confirmed case of Covid-19

- HSSEE or BEYOND will notify families and staff of the exposure
- HSSEE or BEYOND will report the confirmed case to the local health department and follow their specific guidelines
- HSSEE or BEYOND will report the confirmed case to the state Department of Public Health
- Determine the date of symptom onset for the child/staff member
- Determine if the child/staff member attended/worked at the program while symptomatic or during the 2 days before symptoms began
- Identify what days the child/staff member attended/worked during that time
- Determine who had close contact with the child/staff member at the program during those days. Refer back to Child/Staff Movements form

- Close off areas used by the individuals with COVID-19
- Exclude the children and staff members who are determined to have had close contact with the affected/child/staff member for 14 days after the last day they had contact with the affected/child/staff member
- Open outside doors and windows to increase air circulation in the area.
- Clean and disinfect all areas used by the sick person, such as offices, bathrooms, common areas, shared electronic equipment like tablets, touch screens, keyboards, and remote controls.
- If more than 7 days since the sick person visited or used the facility, additional cleaning and disinfection is not necessary.
- Continue routine cleaning and disinfection

Health Screening of Children/Staff

All children and staff are required to be screened for any observable illness, including cough or respiratory distress, and to confirm temperature below 100.4 degrees. Staff will continue to monitor children in their care throughout the day for symptoms.

Child

- Parents check each child's temperature prior to arrival
- Be sure that children have not been in close with someone who has tested positive
- Has not been sneezing, coughing, had a sore throat or shortness of breath

Staff member

- Staff checks their temperature prior to arrival
- Be sure that staff have not been in close with someone who has tested positive
- Has not been sneezing, coughing, had a sore throat or shortness of breath

During the day- prevention of Covid-19

Arrival of children

- Childcare providers will come outside the facility to pick up the children as they arrive or meet parents in the lobby.
- Curb side/Lobby drop off and pick up should limit direct contact between parents and staff members and adhere to social distancing recommendation.
- 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](#)
- Children will go directly to the classroom and immediately wash hands
- Staff will help child remove coat and get hands washed

Arrival of Staff

- Bring into the center as little as you possibly will need for the day.
- Staff must wear a mask all day excluding mealtimes and/or break time
- Place your items away and wash hands

Departure of children

- Staff members will have child/ren wash his/her hands
- Staff member will take child to the parent

Once all children have departed and center is closed

- Use a glove to remove any more garbage to the dumpster
- Wash mask in soap and water and disinfect in bleach and water, hang to dry
- Wash hands
- Take all belongings home

Various times of the day

- All children's blankets, sheets, extra clothes are to stay at the center to reduce the transmission of Covid-19 from home to school
- Keep classroom size as small as possible with the same teachers throughout the day each day.
- At nap time, ensure that children's cots (or cribs) are spaced out as much as possible, ideally 6 feet apart. Continue to practice head to toe in order to further reduce the potential for viral spread.
- Children's books, like other paper-based materials such as mail or envelopes, are not considered as a high risk for transmission and do not need additional cleaning or disinfection procedures. We do encourage a light spray down of bleach throughout the day
- Break room will have a bleach spray bottle for staff to use before and after use of area
- No touch trashcans in classrooms instead of cans that require a hand to touch
- Constant use of cloth face covering for each staff person while in the workplace is mandatory as of April 21, 2020. Instructions for use of cloth face covering are available from the CDC.
 - Exemptions to anyone for whom doing so would be contrary to his or her health or safety because of a medical condition
 - A child in a childcare setting
 - Under the age of 2

Midday cleaning

- Clean the area or item with soap and water or another detergent if it is dirty. Then, use disinfectant.
- Recommend use of [EPA-registered household disinfectant external icon](#). Follow the instructions on the label to ensure safe and effective use of the product.
- Keeping surface wet for a period of 2 minutes.
- Precautions such as wearing gloves and making sure you have good ventilation during use of the product.

Soft Surface Cleaning

For soft surfaces such as carpeted floor, rugs, and drapes

- Clean the surface using soap and water or with cleaners appropriate for use on these surfaces.
- Launder items (if possible) according to the manufacturer's instructions. Use the warmest appropriate water setting and dry items completely or
- Disinfect with an EPA-registered household disinfectant. These disinfectants meet EPA's criteria for use against COVID-19.

Electronics

For electronics, such as tablets, touch screens, keyboards, and remote controls

- There is a wipeable cover on electronics.
- Follow manufacturer's instruction for cleaning and disinfecting.

Laundry

For clothing, towels, linens and other items

- Launder items according to the manufacturer’s instructions. Use the warmest appropriate water setting and dry items completely.
- Wear disposable gloves when handling dirty laundry from a person who is sick.
- Dirty laundry from a person who is sick can be washed with other people’s items.
- Do not shake dirty laundry.
- Clean and disinfect clothes hampers according to guidance above for surfaces.
- Remove gloves, and wash hands right away.

Clean and Sanitize Toys

- Toys that cannot be cleaned and sanitized should not be used.
- Toys that children have placed in their mouths or that are otherwise contaminated by body secretions or excretions should be set aside until they are cleaned by hand by a person wearing gloves. Clean with water and detergent, rinse, sanitize with an EPA-registered disinfectant, rinse again, and air-dry. You may also clean in a mechanical dishwasher.
- Be mindful of items more likely to be placed in a child’s mouth, like play food, dishes, and utensils.
- Machine washable cloth toys are not to be used during Covid-19 or must be laundered as soon as a child finishes playing with it
- Do not share toys with other groups of infants or toddlers, unless they are washed and sanitized before being moved from one group to the other.
- Set aside toys that need to be cleaned. Place in a dish pan with soapy water or put in a separate container marked for “soiled toys.” Keep dish pan and water out of reach from children to prevent risk of drowning. Washing with soapy water is the ideal method for cleaning. Try to have enough toys so that the toys can be rotated through cleanings.
- Children’s books, like other paper-based materials such as mail or envelopes, are not considered a high risk for transmission and do not need additional cleaning or disinfection procedures.

Washing, Feeding, or Holding a Child

It is important to comfort crying, sad, and/or anxious infants and toddlers, and they often need to be held. To the extent possible, when washing, feeding, or holding young children:

- Staff can protect themselves by wearing an over-large button-down, long sleeved shirt and by wearing long hair up off the collar in a ponytail or other updo.
- Staff should wash their hands, neck, and anywhere touched by a child’s secretions.
- Staff should change the child’s clothes if secretions are on the child’s clothes. They should change the button-down shirt, if there are secretions on it, and wash their hands again.
- Contaminated clothes should be placed in a plastic bag or washed in a washing machine.
- Infants, toddlers, and staff should have multiple changes of clothes on hand in the childcare center.
- Staff should wash their hands before and after handling infant bottles prepared at home or prepared in the facility.

Hand washing

All children, staff, and volunteers should engage in hand hygiene at the following times

- Arrival to the facility and after breaks
- Before and after preparing food or drinks
- Before and after eating or handling food, or feeding children
- Before and after administering medication or medical ointment
- After diapering
- After using the toilet or helping a child use the bathroom

- After coming in contact with bodily fluid
- After playing outdoors or in sand
- After handling garbage
- After blowing one's nose, coughing, or sneezing
- After using the restroom
- Before coming in contact with any child
- After touching or cleaning surfaces that may be contaminated
- After using shared equipment like toys, computer keyboards, mouse, scissors, pens. etc
- All staff and children must adhere to regular hand washing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds
 - Turn water on and wet hands, remove from water
 - Add soap to hands and create friction to make bubbles
 - Scrub for 20 seconds, sing Happy Birthday or ABC's
 - Staff member should use a scrub brush under nails
 - Rinse hands under running water
 - Dry hands with single use paper towels
 - Turn off faucet with paper towels

Alcohol-based sanitizers

Use of an alcohol-based hand sanitizer should only be practiced when soap and water method is not available. If a child needs to use alcohol-based sanitizer, an adult/staff member must be physically present to observe and guide child in proper use.

Respiratory Hygiene

- All staff should cover coughs and sneezes with tissues or the corner of the elbow
- Encourage children when appropriate to cover coughs and sneezes with tissues or the corner of the elbow
- Dispose of soiled tissues immediately after use

Eliminating transmission points

- Reduce common touch points by opening internal doors where possible.
- Frequent cleaning of all touch points.
- Secure all secondary doors and access points to minimize incidental contact.
- Recommended to provide disposable wipes so that commonly used surfaces (for example, doorknobs, keyboards, remote controls, desks, other work tools and equipment) can be wiped down.
- Staff should not share phones, desks, or other work tools and equipment, when possible. If shared, clean and disinfect equipment before and after use.
- Employees should clean their personal workspace at the beginning and the end of every shift.
- If a sick employee is suspected or confirmed to have COVID-19, follow the CDC cleaning and disinfection recommendations.

Essential functions and reliance that the community may need us for our services

- HSSEE and BEYOND is prepared to change our business practice to maintain critical operations this may include enrollment on a temporary basis children of various ages of essential personal
- HSSEE and BEYOND will identify alternate supply chains for critical goods and services. Some good and services may be in higher demand or unavailable. If for some reason there is not adequate PPE for a childcare center, cleaning supplies, paper supplies, the director or her designee will close the center until proper materials have arrived
 - Currently, the best defense to Covid-19 is hand washing therefore, using gloves all day everyday could become the false security. Gloved hands will be reserved for the following times

- Universal Precautions
 - Diaper changing
 - Nose blowing
 - Garbage removal
- Visitors conducting business must wear a mask

Center Family/Staff Communication Plan

- Communication is important for all center staff and families. Regular communication will continue through email via Tadpoles by the director as well as face to face from teachers.

Determine how HSSEE and BEYOND will operate if absenteeism spikes amongst staff

While assuring that same staff person is to remain with the same children over the course of the day it is understandable that absenteeism may increase in employees, those who stay home to care for sick family members, and those who must stay home to watch their children if dismissed from childcare programs and K-12 schools.

- HSSEE and BEYOND will plan to monitor and respond to absenteeism at the workplace to provide consistency for families and children
- Implement plans to continue your essential business functions in case you experience higher than usual absenteeism.
- Prepare to institute flexible workplace and leave policies.
- Cross-train staff to perform essential functions so the workplace can operate even if key employees are absent.

Staff/Student Arrival Health Questionnaire

Please help us to protect your children and others by
ensuring your child does not exhibit these symptoms of COVID-19.

If your child has **any symptoms** on this form, we cannot allow your child/family to enter until your symptoms have resolved.

If you, a member family living with your child, or your child has traveled outside the state of NC please notify us for additional guidance

Has been in Close contact with person diagnosed Covid-19	Sneezing, Coughing, Shortness of Breath	Fever 100.4 or greater
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Acceptance of COVID-19 procedures for children/families/staff

HSSEE and BEYOND

Anyone who is using the center agrees to follow the policy and procedures in order to be participating in HSSEE and BEYOND programs.

They also understand that this document can be changed at any time with or without notice by the owner.

They understand that the safety, health and the well-being of children, families, and staff rely on their due diligence to keep following Social Distancing rules set by the Governor at any given time.