



**Department for Children and Families
Child Development Division**

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Agency of Human Services

June 17, 2020

Dear Families,

The Vermont Department of Health has developed science-based health and safety guidelines for child care providers and summer camps who will be open during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Here are some of the things staff will be doing to keep children safe:

- Staff will wear facial coverings as appropriate.
- Cleaning thoroughly and often throughout the day.
- Keeping groups small (*no more than 25 people per classroom, including staff and children*).
- Keeping children with their own groups throughout the day. No sharing of common spaces. No combined group activities.
- Remaining with the same group of children, as best they can.
- Washing their hands frequently throughout the day (*with soap and water for at least 20 seconds*).
- Conducting health screenings of children and staff before they are allowed to enter.
- Not allowing anyone who is sick to enter; making sure they leave right away if they develop symptoms during the day.
- Not using any toys that cannot be cleaned and sanitized.
- Not allowing any outside visitors or volunteers to enter.

You can view the full guidelines on the Department of Health's website at: healthvermont.gov/response/coronavirus-covid-19/schools-and-child-care-programs.

Health professionals at the Vermont Department of Health are available to answer questions and provide support to child care and summer programs. Parents can call their child's pediatrician for questions about their child's health.

If your child care or summer program is not opening or not able to care for your child, call your local child care support agency to ask about the options available in your area. A list of these agencies is enclosed. It is also available at <https://dcf.vermont.gov/cdd/cccsa>.

If you have concerns or questions about your child care program's implementation of the child care regulations and health guidance, you can call 1-800-649-2642 option 3.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steven Berbeco".

Steven Berbeco
Deputy Commissioner