

Coronavirus & Head Start: Keeping Kids Healthy

The spread of the Coronavirus (COVID–19) and the intensity of media coverage surrounding it may be overwhelming, perhaps even frightening. Our routines have suddenly changed with the onset of coronavirus (COVID-19). Many schools, day cares, and offices are closed, and many of us are working remotely. Hand sanitizer, cleaning products, and disinfectants are within close reach of our children. Our use of medications may be different than it was last week. We want to make sure the Head Start community has all the knowledge and resources you need to keep the children and families you support healthy and informed.

Below is a link with information provided by the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) that should help childcare programs, schools, and their partners understand how to help prevent the transmission of COVID-19 within childcare and school communities and facilities. It also aims to help childcare programs, schools, and partners to react quickly should a case be identified. The guidance includes considerations to help administrators plan for the continuity of teaching and learning if there is community spread of COVID-19.

<https://www.dshs.state.tx.us/coronavirus/default.aspx#print>

The CDC will update this guidance as needed and as additional information becomes available. You can check the following CDC website periodically for updated interim guidance and other information: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>.

- Inform families and staff that they should stay home when sick
- Promote good hygiene habits, including proper hand-washing technique and coughing and sneezing into the bend of the arm to stop the spread of germs
- Review and update your program's emergency preparedness plan
- [Fact Sheet: What you need to know about coronavirus disease 2019 \(COVID-19\)](#)
- [Subscribe to the CDC newsletter on COVID–19 for regular updates](#)