

Post-Pandemic Guidance for Child Care Centers, Family Child Care Homes, In-Home Aides and Day Camps

Background

Permanent transitional pandemic child care rules were effective April 1, 2021 for child care centers (5101:2-12-02.2), family child care (5101:2-13-02.2), and in-home aides (5101:2-14-02.2), and on May 9, 2021 for day camps (5101:2-18-03.1). Additionally, child care center rule 5101:2-12-02.3 allows for temporary pandemic school-age child care centers, and rule 5101:2-16-10 allows for pandemic days and absent days. Governor Mike DeWine advised that as of June 2, 2021 many health orders will be lifted. As a result, ODJFS will no longer be enforcing the transitional pandemic child care rules. Information for requirements beginning June 2, 2021 is outlined below.

Best Practice Decisions

While programs are no longer mandated to follow the transitional pandemic child care requirements, they should follow all guidance issued from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) found at: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/guidance-for-childcare.html>

The following chart outlines best practices and changes from June 2, 2021 forward. Programs are required to continue to follow all pre-pandemic rules.

Topic	COVID Practices for June 2, 2021 forward
Handwashing: Staff and children	Staff and children should continue to follow COVID-19 CDC handwashing guidance
Symptom assessment, quarantine, isolation, discharge	Programs should follow CDC guidelines for COVID-19 symptom assessment , quarantine , and isolation . These practices should be followed for employees and children in the program.
Reporting	Pre-pandemic rule requires programs to report in OCLQS when a serious incident occurs. Positive COVID-19 cases for a provider, resident, staff, and/or child(ren) are considered a serious incident and must continue to be reported in OCLQS. Additionally, COVID-19 should be reported to the local health department. The Communicable Disease Chart (JFS 08087) is being updated to require reporting for COVID-19.

Masks	While masks are no longer <u>required</u> , beginning June 2, 2021, it is STRONGLY ENCOURAGED that providers adhere to CDC guidance, which states that <u>unvaccinated populations should still mask and socially distance</u> . See above link.
Non-Permanent Sinks	ODJFS will continue to allow the use of non-permanent sinks. OAC rules will be effective this fall to allow for portable sinks ongoing.
Dividers	ODJFS will continue to allow the use of dividers. OAC rules will be effective this fall to allow for dividers ongoing.
Absent Days	Chapter 16 increased absent days from ten to twenty days during each six-month period of January through June and July through December of each state fiscal year. These will remain.
Pandemic Days	Chapter 16 allows for the payment of up to 35 pandemic days per fiscal year when the program is required to close. This will remain.
Temporary Pandemic School-Age Child Care Centers	These programs can continue to operate through June 30, 2021 as outlined in rule. As a result, applications for temporary pandemic school-age child care centers should no longer be submitted. If the program wishes to operate after this date, a child care center application should be submitted in the Ohio Child Licensing and Quality System (OCLQS) to secure a child care center license by this date.