

How is ECECD helping child care facilities keep their staff and children healthy and safe?



In partnership with the Department of Health (DOH) and New Mexico's early care and education provider community, the New Mexico Early Childhood Education and Care Department (ECECD) has created a stringent set of health and safety requirements for early learning settings.

When a COVID-19 positive case occurs, ECECD implements its Rapid Response process. This includes temporarily closing the facility for cleaning, as well as contact tracing, instructions on isolation and quarantine, and additional steps.

If child care providers need additional personal protective equipment (PPE), they may email child.care@state.nm.us.

Online Resources:

- COVID-safe practices, requirements: bit.ly/ececd-covidsafepactices
- COVID-safe practices, requirements Spanish: bit.ly/ececd-covidsafepactices-spanish
- COVID Rapid Response process: bit.ly/ececd-rapidresponse-covid
- DOH Public Health Orders and Executive Orders: bit.ly/nm-publichealthorders
- NM Social Distancing and Travel Restrictions: bit.ly/nm-covid-travel
- How to Quarantine after Close Contact with a Confirmed COVID-19 Case: bit.ly/nm-quarantine-guidance
- DOH COVID-19 Map by County: [*bit.ly/nm-covidmap](https://bit.ly/nm-covidmap)
- DOH Emergency Contacts: bit.ly/nmdoh-emergencycontacts

What Families Should Expect of Child Care Providers

All licensed facility and registered home provider staff who live or work in a county displayed in red, orange, or yellow on the DOH COVID-19 map* are required to get tested for COVID-19 every two weeks. Geographical distinctions are based on a 14-day rolling average of new daily cases and overall positivity rate.

Child care providers in New Mexico are also required to follow the health and safety requirements including:

- **Establish daily health practices**
 - ♦ **Require daily health checks** for children and staff including temperature taking
 - ♦ **Handwashing**
 - ♦ **Ensure mask-wearing:** Cloth face masks of appropriate size are required for everyone in a child care facility that is three years of age or older. Masks should fully cover the nose and mouth without gaps and stay in place without needing adjustments. Children should not wear masks during nap time or when eating and drinking.
- **Maintain physical distancing:** Children and teachers must be assigned to groups, and groups must not mix. Children and staff practice physical distancing (6 feet), where possible, and teachers implement distancing systems, as practicable. Child care programs establish staggered drop-off and pick-up times for families and do not allow non-essential visitors to the center.
- **Implement intensified cleaning, sanitizing, and disinfection.**
- **Limit sharing:** eliminate family-style meals and keep children's items separated and labeled.
- **Train all staff in COVID-Safe Practices:** appropriate use of personal protective equipment (PPE), cleaning and disinfecting, responding to a person who becomes sick at the facility.

What Child Care Providers Expect of Families

Consistently follow the COVID-19 health and safety requirements defined by the New Mexico DOH, including:

- **Mask-wearing in public**
- **Handwashing**
- **Physical distancing of 6 feet or more** around people who don't live within the household.
- **Limit travel outside the home**