



This information is for all child cares within Adams, Arapahoe and Douglas Counties, including all single-skill-based child cares and camps that do not require licensure.

Federal, state and local guidance and orders for child cares have recently changed and are likely to continue changing over the coming weeks and months. Given the confusion we know this has caused, Tri-County Health Department (TCHD) would like to clarify which COVID-19 mitigation strategies are still required for child cares, what is guidance, and recommendations as you navigate operations with fewer requirements.

Masking

- **Orders:**
 - On May 14, 2021, Governor Polis updated his [statewide masking order](#) and [Masking FAQ](#) to reflect recently updated [CDC recommendations for fully vaccinated people](#) regarding mask wearing.
 - On May 15, 2021, TCHD's local masking order expired, leaving only the statewide order in place for Adams, Arapahoe and Douglas Counties. See the list of Expired Orders at the bottom of [TCHD's Public Health Order page](#).
- **Requirements for Child Care:**
 - Under Governor Polis's statewide masking order, unvaccinated individuals 11 years of age and older are encouraged, rather than required, to wear a mask in indoor public spaces. Vaccinated individuals are neither encouraged or required, under this statewide order, to wear a mask indoors, **except** that:
 - Masks are **required** for all unvaccinated individuals 11 years of age and older in all child care settings.
 - Fully vaccinated caregivers and staff may not remove their mask while working with children unless they have provided proof of vaccination to their employer.
 - Children 10 years of age and younger are not required to wear a mask in any setting.
 - Fully vaccinated children 11 years of age and older may not remove their mask, regardless of vaccination status, unless their caregivers are fully vaccinated.
 - Only caregivers and staff working with children must provide proof of vaccination. Children 11 years of age and older and staff that do not work with children are not required to provide proof vaccination but are still required to be fully vaccinated before removing their mask.
- **Guidance:**
 - [CDC's Guidance for Wearing Masks](#)
 - [CDC's Guidance for Fully Vaccinated People](#)
 - [CDPHE's Guidance for Wearing Masks](#)
- **Recommendations:**
 - Unvaccinated children 2 to 10 years of age are strongly encouraged to wear masks in all indoor public spaces.
 - All businesses, including child cares, may:
 - Require masks in any setting, for anyone over the age of 2 years, regardless of an individual's vaccination status.



- Require proof of vaccination for any individuals, including children.
- Require vaccination.
- If you do not feel comfortable requiring proof of vaccination or anticipate noncompliance, a universal mask wearing requirement is recommended.

General COVID-19 Mitigation Strategies

- **Orders:**
 - On May 14, 2021, the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) issued [Second Amended Public Health Order 20-38: Limited COVID-19 Restrictions](#) – a 30-day order set to expire on June 13, 2021. The order may be rescinded earlier by CDPHE.
 - On April 16, 2021, TCHD issued a [Simplified COVID-19 Dial Public Health Order](#) – a 120-day order set to expire on August 15, 2021. Douglas County has opted out of the requirements of this order.
- **Requirements for Child Care:**
 - Under CDPHE’s Statewide Order:
 - Events - When more than 100 people are gathered in a room, 6-foot distancing is required between groups. Events hosting more than 500 people must obtain approval from TCHD and CDPHE by completing [TCHD’s Mass Gathering Request Form](#).
 - Cases & Outbreaks – Child cares must work with their local public health agency as COVID-19 cases occur and must comply with [CDPHE’s Case & Outbreak Guidance for Schools and Child Cares](#).
 - Under TCHD’s Local Order:
 - All counties are currently in “Level Clear” with no restrictions or requirements.
 - All businesses must still be attentive to hygiene and sanitation and must ensure paid leave policies meet state law requirements to ensure employees remain home when sick. See Colorado’s [Paid Leave Under the Healthy Families and Workplaces Act Interpretive Notice & Formal Opinion](#) and [Colorado Workplace Public Health Rights Poster](#) for more information.
 - If a county exceeds 2 new hospitalizations per 100,000 county residents, all businesses will be required to reimplement the order’s Mitigation Requirements for All Sectors, including capacity limits and 6-foot distancing. As Critical Businesses, child cares would be required to implement these strategies to the greatest extent possible. See the [Denver Metro COVID-19 Hospital Admission Rates by County](#) for your county’s current metric.
- **Guidance:**
 - [CDC’s Guidance for Operating Child Care Programs during COVID-19](#)
 - [CDC’s Guidance for Operating Youth and Summer Camps During COVID-19](#)
 - [CDC’s Cleaning and Disinfecting Your Facility guidance](#)
 - [CDPHE’s Guidance for Child Care Facilities](#)
 - [CDPHE’s Guidance for Children’s Day Camps & Youth Sports Camps](#)
 - [CDPHE’s Guidance for Residential Camps](#)
 - [Guidelines for Child Care Visitation](#)
- **Recommendations:**



- Employers are strongly encouraged to provide reasonable work accommodations, including accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) for individuals who cannot obtain access to COVID-19 vaccine or who for medical or other legal reasons cannot take a COVID-19 vaccine.
- Any strategies to increase vaccination, ventilation, mask wearing by unvaccinated individuals, and distancing by unvaccinated individuals is strongly encouraged.
- Unique approaches to mitigation strategy implementation like vaccinated-only classrooms, universal mask wearing requirements, universal proof of vaccine requirements, and mask wearing requirements in certain settings like parent-pickups are permitted.

Note on Guidance and Recommendations

The guidance documents linked above provide a wide variety of mitigation strategies that we know limit the spread of COVID-19. We encourage you to use this guidance in your planning and refer back to it regularly as we expect continued updates from both state and federal leaders. Many of these guidance documents will be recommendations only. All of these recommendations are based in the science of what we know about COVID-19. While the mitigation strategies contained in these documents are no longer required, each strategy implemented limits the risk of spread of COVID-19 in your facility. With that, each child care's facility, activities, staff and clients are unique. You are strongly encouraged to implement those mitigation strategies that are a good fit for your specific situations.

Staying Connected

Join Tri-County Health Department's (TCHD) School and Child Care Task Force for our bi-weekly School and Child Care Leadership Check-in on Thursdays at 2:00 PM. Our next webinar is TODAY, May 20, 2021. Please register here - https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_LujevU1kRuCRJKt1CwKpFQ.

If you have more questions about this guidance you can send your questions to ehchildcare@tchd.org also please check out our [TCHD Child Care page](#) for more information.