



# Childcare Symptoms Monitoring Protocol During COVID-19 Response

[Michigan.gov/Coronavirus](https://Michigan.gov/Coronavirus)

## How to Check for Illness – Children and Staff

### Actions to Take to Prevent Illness

- Encourage children and staff to take everyday preventive actions to prevent the spread of respiratory illnesses:
  - Strict adherence to staying home when sick
  - Appropriately covering coughs and sneezes
  - Cleaning and disinfecting frequently touched surfaces
  - Washing hands often with soap and water
    - If soap and water are not readily available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol. Always wash hands with soap and water if hands are visibly dirty.
    - Remember to supervise young children when they use hand sanitizer to prevent swallowing alcohol, especially in childcare facilities.

### Know the Symptoms of COVID-19 in Adults

- The following symptoms may appear **2-14 days after exposure**.
  - Fever of 100.4F (38C) or higher
  - Cough
  - Shortness of breath
  - Other respiratory symptoms have been reported

### Symptoms of COVID-19 in Children

- Children with confirmed COVID-19 have generally presented with mild symptoms. It's not known yet whether some children may be at higher risk for severe illness, for example, children with underlying medical conditions and special healthcare needs.
- Reported symptoms in children include cold-like symptoms, such as:
  - Fever of 100.4F (38C) or higher
  - Runny nose
  - Cough
  - Vomiting and diarrhea have also been reported.

### How to Screen Children and Staff

- **Children**
  - Perform temperature checks when arriving.
  - Have multiple thermometers available for screening.
    - Thermometers should be cleaned and disinfected between uses, following the manufacturer's instructions for use (In the absence of instructions, disinfect with alcohol pad and let air dry between uses).
  - Children checking into the daycare with fever or symptoms be sent home.

- Document absence of fever, shortness of breath, new or change in cough, and sore throat.
- Watch children for signs of running nose, cough, fever, or gastrointestinal symptoms that may develop during the day.
  - If they are ill or have a fever, have them put on a facemask and leave the daycare.
- Plan to have areas where ill children can be isolated from well children until they can leave the daycare.

- **Staff**

- Perform temperature checks when starting shift.
- Have multiple thermometers available for screening.
  - Thermometers should be cleaned and disinfected between uses, following the manufacturer's instructions for use (In the absence of instructions, disinfect with alcohol pad and let air dry between uses).
- Staff arriving with fever or symptoms will be sent home.
- Document absence of fever, shortness of breath, new or change in cough, and sore throat.
- Report any respiratory symptoms that develop in during the shift.
- If they are ill or have a fever, have them put on a facemask and leave the daycare.

This guidance was developed from [CDC's K-12 Schools and Childcare Programs FAQs for Administrators](#) and [CDC's Coronavirus Disease-2019 \(COVID-19\) and Children Frequently Asked Questions and Answers](#)