



Public Health

Communicable Disease and Emergency Management Division

Mitigation Guidance for Early Childhood Communities

Boulder County Public Health will notify you when a trigger has occurred so you can initiate/implement your response.

1st Case in Denver Metro Area

Trigger: Case in Denver Metro Area with Known, Contained Exposure (For example: traveler from Italy gets sick, Public Health has identified and quarantined individuals who had contact with the traveler.)

1. Reinforce prevention messaging. Share [CDC prevention messages](#) in English and Spanish with staff and parents. Strong emphasis on proper handwashing.
2. Identify center-based and community events (field trips, sports, concerts, potlucks, fundraisers) that may need contingency planning.
3. Identify families with immunocompromised children and prepare necessary resources (e.g., in-home child care, respite care, arranging time off from work) required to keep immunocompromised children home.
4. Identify Early Childhood Education (ECE) staff with immunocompromised conditions (e.g. explore opportunities for them to support administrative duties remotely).
5. Instruct teachers and staff to stay home while sick.
6. Identify options for employees without sick leave to ensure they can stay home or work from home (e.g. explore opportunities for them to support administrative duties remotely).
7. Review business insurance policies to determine your business benefits during a declared State of Emergency.
8. Review and update Continuity of Operation Plans (COOP). Identify mission essential services and how to focus resources for escalating events.

Spread of Cases in Denver Metro Area

Trigger: Case in Denver Metro Area with Unknown, Uncontained Exposure

(For example: traveler from Italy gets sick and attends public conference in Denver while sick and Public Health cannot identify all potentially exposed people.)

1. Recommend cancelling or implementing contingency plans for upcoming center-based and ECE community events (field trips, sports, concerts, pot lucks, fundraisers, and upcoming travel).
2. Outreach to families with immunocompromised children to initiate home option.
3. Outreach to immunocompromised employees to initiate remote work option.
4. Reinforce prevention messaging.
5. Discuss how to proceed with potential center and preschool closure.
6. Identify staff who have essential jobs who can't work from home. Implement alternative job assignments for employees at higher risk.
7. Share [CDC prevention messages](#) and direct parents to COHELP for additional information.
8. Partner with Boulder County Public Health to interpret evolving guidance related to infection control and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for ECE staff.

1st Case in Boulder County

Trigger: Case in Boulder County with Known, Contained Exposure

1. Instruct supervisors to monitor child and staff health and send ill children and adults home.
2. Cancel center events (large meetings, trainings, conferences, pot lucks, fundraisers) or implement remote options where possible.
3. Share [CDC prevention messages](#) and direct parents to COHELP for additional information.



Case in your Center

Trigger: Case in Your Center or Preschool, Known, Contained Exposure

1. Close ECE centers, and preschools **where student(s) is positive** for COVID-19 to disinfect and allow for a public health investigation.
2. Quarantine students, family members, and staff who were exposed.
4. Distribute coordinated closure messaging and resource materials to parents and caregivers.
3. Cancel ECE activities.
4. Partner with Boulder County Public Health to determine the length of closure and criteria for reopening in accordance with the Colorado Department of [Public Health's Guidance for School and Child Care Closure](#).
5. Partner with Boulder County Public Health to interpret evolving guidance related to infection control and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for ECE staff.
6. Instruct supervisors to monitor child and staff health and send ill children and adults home after services are reinstated.
7. Share [CDC prevention messages](#) and direct parents to COHELP for additional information.

Spread of Cases in Boulder County

Trigger: Case in Boulder County with Unknown, Uncontained Exposure

1. Implement Continuity of Operation Plans (COOP).
2. Instruct supervisors to monitor child and staff health and send ill children and adults home.
3. Instruct ECE staff to communicate with supervisors when they have close contacts at home displaying symptoms of illness.
4. Continue to close ECE centers and preschools where student(s) is positive for COVID-19 to disinfect and allow for a public health investigation in accordance with the [Colorado Department of Public Health's Guidance for School and Child Care Closure](#).
5. Distribute coordinated closure messaging and resource materials to parents and caregivers as needed.
6. Cancel events.
7. Consult with Boulder County Public Health to discuss impacts of county-wide school district closures on ECE services.
8. Partner work with Boulder County Housing and Human Services and Community Services departments to support children and families who receive free and reduced lunch food services.
9. Share [CDC prevention messages](#) and direct parents to COHELP for additional information.

Communitywide transmission in Boulder County

Trigger: Community-wide Transmission in Boulder County, Regardless of Geographical Location

1. Work with Boulder County Public Health to discuss ongoing prevention measures.
2. Work with Boulder County Public Health to discuss cases.
3. Distribute coordinated closure messaging and resource materials to parents and caregivers as needed.
4. Share [CDC prevention messages](#) and direct parents to COHELP for additional information.

About this Guidance

Controlling COVID-19 requires personal protective measures (e.g., staying home when ill, covering coughs and sneezes, and washing hands often), reducing disease transmission through environmental disinfection to eliminate influenza viruses from frequently touched surfaces and objects (e.g. tables, door knobs, toys, desks, and computer keyboards) and instituting communitywide mitigation measures reserved for pandemics and novel diseases (e.g., coordinated and targeted closures and dismissals of child care facilities and schools and cancelling mass gatherings). The goal of communitywide mitigation is to reduce cases of COVID-19 occurring from community spread, subsequently reducing the peak number of cases in a community. This reduction protects the healthcare system from high demand on hospitals and the healthcare infrastructure.

Learn more about Community Mitigation Strategies at: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/community-mitigation-strategy.pdf>