

COVID – 19

Planning and policies for Extended Hours Program

information taken from Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment

What is COVID-19?

COVID-19 is a novel, or new, coronavirus that has not been previously identified. The virus causing COVID-19 is not the same as the coronaviruses that commonly circulate among humans and cause mild illness, like the common cold.

Signs and Symptoms

- Fever
- Cough
- Shortness of breath
- New loss of taste or smell

Incubation period

Ranges from 2-14 days

Contagious period and spread

The virus is thought to spread mainly from person to person.

- Between people who are in close contact with one another (within about 6 feet).
- Through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes.

These droplets can land in the mouths or noses of people who are nearby or possibly be inhaled into the lungs.

It may be possible that a person can get COVID-19 by touching a surface or object that has the virus on it and then touching their own mouth, nose, or possibly their eyes, but this is not thought to be the main way the virus spreads.

There is not enough information about the transmission of the virus to completely understand when a patient can spread the virus to others.

Control measures of spread

There is currently no vaccine to prevent COVID-19. The best way to prevent illness is to avoid being exposed to this virus.

We will teach children and staff to:

- Cough or sneeze into their sleeved arm or cover their nose and mouth with a tissue. Throw away the tissue after they use it and wash hands.
- Avoid touching their eyes, nose, or mouth.
- Wash their hands frequently and for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, especially after they cough or sneeze; an alcohol-based hand rub can be used if soap and water are not nearby.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces like doorknobs, tables, drinking fountains and handrails.

Teachers, caregivers, and families will

- Practice control measures listed above at home and in group settings.
- Report any suspected infection to the Extended Hours staff member at their school or by calling the Extended Hours main office at 970-241-3603.

Extended Hours staff and local public health agency

- Notified staff will inform the Extended Hours main office with decision-making authority.

- Extended Hours main office will coordinate next steps with the local public health agency, Mesa County Health Department.
- The Mesa County Health Department will determine next steps in collaboration with the Extended Hours main office.

Exclusion

- EXCLUDE children/students/staff with fever AND respiratory symptoms from child care/school/work until at least 24 hours after they no longer have a fever or signs of a fever (chills, feeling very warm, flushed appearance, or sweating) without the use of fever-reducing medicine.
- Ill children/students/staff should be separated from others until they can be picked up/go home.

Response: Active cases in the community

School, child care, and event closure is not indicated while there is no evidence of community transmission. If there is an outbreak in a school, child care or increase in community transmission, school and child care closures may be considered in consultation with local public health agencies.

- **PLEASE NOTE: COVID-19 is a REPORTABLE CONDITION**
 - **If Extended Hours is notified of a student with a positive novel coronavirus test, we will contact our local health department. This is allowed for under FERPA.**

1. Monitoring and plan for absenteeism

- Local health officials will be alerted about increases in student and staff absenteeism, particularly if absences appear due to respiratory illnesses (like the common cold or the “flu,” which have symptoms similar to COVID-19).
 - If possible, school/child care personnel monitoring attendance should ask the following information:
 - Name of student
 - Symptoms of child – especially for fever plus cough and/or shortness of breath
 - Have they been seen by a medical provider?
- Students and staff are required to stay home when sick.

2. Continue to educate students, staff, and families on the importance of hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette.

When to close an Extended Hours site

We will work closely with our local public health department in any consideration of closing Extended Hours Program. Child care facilities may be asked to close for some days when absenteeism reaches 10% and/or 5% for school staff, or as directed by our local public health department.

How long to close an Extended Hours site

Will be done in consultation with local public health

Communication in closing as Extended Hours site

Emails will be sent to all families effected by closures with information on why and how long of the closure. This will be done in consultation with local public health officials.

Consideration/challenges for when Extended Hours Program is closed

- Children being fed – access to meals.
- Child protection issues - younger children unsupervised because parent(s) has to work.
- Children/youth congregating in other sites.
- Parent absenteeism from work in order to care for children.