



Department of Public Health

MAYOR
Dee Margo

GUIDANCE FOR CHILD CARE FACILITIES

December 15, 2020

CITY COUNCIL

District 1
Peter Svarzbein

District 2
Alexandra Anello

District 3
Cassandra Hernandez

District 4
Dr. Sam Morgan

District 5
Isabel Salcido

District 6
Claudia L. Rodriguez

District 7
Henry Rivera

District 8
Cissy Lizarraga

CITY MANAGER
Tommy Gonzalez

As more knowledge is gathered regarding COVID-19 infection in children, the better we understand the role children play in infection and disease process progression in the pediatric population. The pandemic continues to prove to be very dynamic. Therefore, the Department of Public Health (DPH) continues to issue updated guidance that will address certain situations in the City and County of El Paso, Texas.

Local Health Authority orders regarding day care centers for children (“child care centers”) were terminated on June 18, 2020. Child care centers were ordered to comply with all applicable Texas Governor’s Executive Orders, related minimum standard health protocols, Texas Health and Human Services checklists, as well as state and federal agency guidelines.

While, in accordance to Texas Governor’s Executive Order GA-32, there is no occupancy limit for child care centers, the DPH is providing the following guidance to assist all child care centers in El Paso City-County to keep children and staff safe and healthy.

A. Governor’s Strike Force Minimum Standard Health Protocols

The Texas Governor’s Strike Force to Open Texas has issued minimum standard health protocols for child care centers. For purposes of the minimum standard health protocols, the term “child care center” refers to regulated child care centers, temporary licensed child care centers, home providers, and youth development organizations. All child care centers should comply with the Governor’s Strike Force’s health protocols, which are available at <https://open.texas.gov/uploads/files/organization/opentexas/OpenTexas-Checklist-Child-Care-Centers.pdf> .

The Governor’s Strike Force includes protocols for the following areas:

- i) Vulnerable/high risk groups
- ii) Preventive health measures for child care centers
- iii) Social distancing strategies

Angela Mora – Public Health Director
Department of Public Health | 5115 El Paso Dr. | El Paso, TX 79905
O: (915) 212-6502 | <http://www.elpasotexas.gov/public-health>





Department of Public Health

MAYOR

Dee Margo

CITY COUNCIL

District 1

Peter Svarzbein

District 2

Alexsandra Anello

District 3

Cassandra Hernandez

District 4

Dr. Sam Morgan

District 5

Isabel Salcido

District 6

Claudia L. Rodriguez

District 7

Henry Rivera

District 8

Cissy Lizarraga

CITY MANAGER

Tommy Gonzalez

- iv) Class size and ratio requirements
- v) Parent drop-off and pick-up
- vi) Screening of staff, visitors, children, and parents
- vii) Enhanced cleaning and disinfecting measures (including cleaning products, cleaning and sanitizing of toys and the cleaning and disinfecting bedding)
- viii) Caring for infants and toddlers (including diapering, and washing, feeding and holding a child)
- ix) Healthy hand hygiene
- x) Transportation
- xi) Food preparation and meal service

B. The CDC’s Guidance for Child Care Programs that Remain Open

Child care centers also should operate in accordance with the guidance provided by the CDC in its “Guidance for Child Care Programs that Remain Open released by the Centers of Disease Control”. This guidance is available at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/guidance-for-childcare.html>

The CDC includes protocols for the following areas:

- i) Social distancing strategies
- ii) Parent drop-off and pickup
- iii) Screening children upon arrival
- iv) Cleaning and disinfecting
- v) Caring for infants and toddlers
- vi) Healthy hand hygiene behavior
- vii) Food preparation and meal service
- viii) Vulnerable and high risk groups

C. Face Coverings

Child care centers must adhere to the City’s Directive regarding face coverings (or any comparable County Order). The City’s Directive is available at <http://epstrong.org/health-orders.php>

Angela Mora – Public Health Director

Department of Public Health | 5115 El Paso Dr. | El Paso, TX 79905

O: (915) 212-6502 | <http://www.elpasotexas.gov/public-health>





Department of Public Health

MAYOR

Dee Margo

CITY COUNCIL

District 1

Peter Svarzbein

District 2

Alexsandra Anello

District 3

Cassandra Hernandez

District 4

Dr. Sam Morgan

District 5

Isabel Salcido

District 6

Claudia L. Rodriguez

District 7

Henry Rivera

District 8

Cissy Lizarraga

CITY MANAGER

Tommy Gonzalez

D. Workplace Protocols

Child care centers must adhere to the City's Local Health Authority Order addressing workplace protocols (or any comparable County order). The Order regarding workplace protocols is available at

<http://epstrong.org/documents/covid19/2020.07.27%20Orders%20for%20Workplaces.pdf?1608059974>

E. Additional Staff Training

Child care centers should ensure that all child care providers have taken required health and safety training related to COVID-19 through "Texas A&M AgriLife Extension" (<https://agrilifelearn.tamu.edu/>) The following trainings are required:

- "High-Quality Emergency Child Care During COVID-19"
- "Special Considerations for Infection Control during COVID-19"

Angela Mora – Public Health Director

Department of Public Health | 5115 El Paso Dr. | El Paso, TX 79905

O: (915) 212-6502 | <http://www.elpasotexas.gov/public-health>



DELIVERING EXCEPTIONAL SERVICES