

Precious Cargo Childcare L.L.C.

COVID – 19 PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE PLAN
PREPARED JUNE 1, 2020

Introduction

Child care providers across the state have always prioritized the health and safety of the children in their care. With the spread of COVID-19, new health and safety protocols are necessary to ensure children, families, and staff members are as safe as possible.

This document provides tools to help you make the best decisions possible to limit the spread of COVID-19 and to create safe spaces for children and staff members. We will continue to update the document based on our best knowledge and partner with the field to learn about how we fight this virus while providing quality child care.

Reminder: All child care providers are required to follow the Governor's most recent Executive Orders. You can also visit <https://www.michigan.gov/coronavirus> for up-to-date information.

Monitor Symptoms of COVID-19

Precious Cargo will check for COVID-19 symptoms when children and staff arrive before entering classrooms/home. A re-check is required if an individual appears sick or displays symptoms for COVID-19.

Children

Fever is the **key** indicator for young children. If a child's temperature is above 100.4 degrees, the child should be excluded from care. Cough and/or diarrhea in addition to fever is suggestive of coronavirus. When children arrive, Precious Cargo will perform temperature checks. Thermometers will be cleaned and disinfected between uses.

Precious Cargo will perform the following checks upon child drop-off:

- Ask parent - Has your child been in close contact with a person who has COVID-19? (If yes, the family should self-quarantine for 14 days)
- As parent - Has your child felt unwell in the last 3 days? (persistent cough, temperature, difficulty breathing, cold, diarrhea and/or vomiting)
- Visually check the child for signs of illness, including flushed cheeks, rapid or difficulty breathing (without recent physical activity), fatigue, or extreme fussiness.
- Continue to monitor symptoms throughout the day and monitor temperatures when children appear ill or "not themselves."
- Children with a fever alone, or a fever with a cough and/or diarrhea should be isolated from the group and their parents contacted for prompt pick up. Their parents should contact their primary care physician/medical provider.

Staff

Precious Cargo will perform temperature checks when staff arrive. Staff arriving with fever above 100.4 or other symptoms must be sent home. Thermometers will be cleaned and disinfected between uses, following the manufacturer's instructions. Staff will be screened for cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, change in smell or taste, and diarrhea. Staff should report contact with anyone outside of work who has had a documented case of COVID-19. Staff should be instructed to self-quarantine if they have been exposed to COVID-19.

Social Distancing

Whenever possible, Precious Cargo will reduce the number of children in groups and/or spread out classes/groups across multiple rooms. As much as possible, classrooms will include the same group of children and caregivers.

- Precious Cargo will attempt to maintain consistent adults with groups of similar aged children. Infants less than six months will try to be separated from older children because they cannot be vaccinated against certain illnesses
- Precious Cargo will limit contact with external adults and between groups of children. i.e: playground time will try to be rotated between groups and teachers
- Cribs, porta-cribs, cots and mats will be placed at least six feet apart, when possible.
- Bedding will be placed in head-to-toe positioning

Limit, or Eliminate, Use of Common Spaces

One strategy to promote social distancing is to close common spaces. In furtherance of this, Precious Cargo will not have special events that convene larger groups of children or families.

Precious Cargo will take the following steps on limiting/eliminating use of Common Space:

- Create smaller child use areas when using large spaces to keep children from gathering outside of their group.
- Stagger times for outdoor play or gym time, when possible

For Common Spaces with must remain in use Precious Cargo will:

- Clean the space in between groups
- Arrange chairs so they are 6 feet apart (when possible) and limit the number of children sitting together
- Discontinue family style meals (children will sit together at meals but will not serve themselves)
- Increase circulation of outdoor air as much as possible by keeping the windows and doors open.
- More activities will be performed outside (such as circle time and craft time) when possible and weather permitting

Assess Drop Off and Pick Up Times

To minimize the potential spread of COVID-19, Precious cargo will limit the number of individuals in our facility at drop off, pick up, and throughout the day. Parents will have to wear masks at drop off and pick up times to allow for maximum social distancing. Also, weather permitting, parents will drop off and pick up at rear doors in the back yard. If it is inclement weather then parents will wait in upstairs foyer and text staff at 586-219-3766 and child will be escorted upstairs.

- Please limit the number of people dropping off or picking up a child to one adult
- Sanitizer will be available so children and parents can clean their hands

- Parents should attempt to stagger arrival and drop off times and plan to limit direct contact with other parents to the extent possible
- Parents will provide indoor shoes for children at drop off
- Parents please avoid congregating in a single space or a large group

Limit Visitors

Precious Cargo will restrict the individuals in our home as much as possible. Going forward we will limit non-essential visitors, volunteers, and activities including groups of children or adults. Please note licensing consultants are considered essential visitors.

Reinforce Best Practices to Promote Hygiene

Precious Cargo will continue to reinforce the best practices (most of which were already in-use) with children and staff members to limit the spread of COVID-19. These best practices include the following:

Hand Washing

Reinforce regular health and safety practices with children and staff. Wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. This is especially important after blowing your nose, coughing, sneezing; going to the bathroom; and before eating or preparing food.

Cleaning and Disinfecting

Precious Cargo uses robust cleaning protocols on at least a daily basis for items touched frequently. Research indicates that children touch items at significantly higher rates than adults.

- Common areas require at least daily deep clean (for example sinks, bathrooms, doorknobs, tabletops, and shared items).
- Toys will be cleaned frequently
- Toys which have been placed in the mouth will be cleaned immediately

Items from Home

Precious Cargo will limit the number of items brought into the facility as this can be a way to transmit the virus.

Precious Cargo will enact the following to limit the items from home:

- Children should be brought into the center without car seats.
- Staff members and Children require a pair of shoes or slippers to be left at the facility
- Comfort items
 - To avoid items coming into contact with other children, efforts will be made for these items to be placed in a cubby/bin and be used at naptime or as needed
 - If possible, comfort item should remain at Precious Cargo to avoid cross contamination from another site
 - Items will be washed at least weekly

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

PPE is necessary in many settings to keep individuals safe. Child care providers do not need to wear N95 or surgical masks, smocks, or face shields, however, other protective equipment is appropriate.

Masks or Cloth Face Coverings

Staff Members

- Precious Cargo will use strategies to prepare children for seeing their caregivers in masks and attend to children's emotional responses to this new normal
- Masks or Cloth face coverings should be worn when communicating with any person or whenever the employee feels it is necessary throughout the day
- Cloth facing coverings will be provided to staff

Children

Precious Cargo maintains consistent groups, therefore, children do not need to wear a mask when with their consistent group. Medical professionals recognize that many young children will not reliably wear a mask, and a mask may result in increased touching of the face which would negate the purpose of the mask. Young children will take the masks off multiple times a day and in the process the mask will touch the floor and other objects making them a potential source of infection.

If children do wear masks, the child needs to be able to remove the face covering without assistance. Cloth face coverings should never be placed on young children under age 2, anyone who has trouble breathing, or anyone unable to remove the face covering without assistance. The American Academy of Pediatrics provides tips for how to help children be more comfortable wearing cloth face coverings and provides more information to inform your decision about whether to require children in your care, over age 2, to wear cloth face coverings.

Gloves

It is recommended that providers wear gloves in a manner consistent with existing licensing rules (for example, gloves should be worn when handling contaminants, changing diapers, cleaning or when serving food). Staff members should wash hands before putting gloves on and immediately after gloves are removed. Gloves are not recommended for broader use.

Response to Possible or Confirmed Cases of COVID-19

Child care providers are a critical part of helping communities limit the spread of the virus. In furtherance of this, Precious Cargo will:

- Send anyone who becomes symptomatic home immediately
- Isolate people who become ill while in care but cannot leave immediately
- If a child, staff member, family member, or visitor becomes ill with COVID-19 symptoms:
 - Contact local health department and licensing consultant for next steps

- Staff and families of children in care are also required to report to the provider if they become symptomatic or receive positive COVID-19 test results
- When notifying parents if COVID-19 was present in the facility, Precious Cargo will respect the privacy of individuals by not sharing health information of a specific person
- Contact your local health department for guidance and best practices and to determine if your entire facility must close

Guidelines for Returning to Care and Work

Staff members and children should stay home and self-isolate if they show symptoms of COVID-19. It can be challenging to determine when to isolate young children because they are ill more often than adults, and the cause of a fever is sometimes unknown.

If a staff member or child has a fever or a cough, providers should follow their child and staff illness policy. At this time, it is recommended that children be fever free for 72 hours before returning to care (even if other symptoms are not present).

If a staff member or child exhibits multiple symptoms of COVID-19, you suspect possible exposure, or an individual tests positive for COVID-19, the individual must stay home until:

- Has been fever-free for at least 72 hours without the use of medicine that reduces fevers **AND**
- Other symptoms have improved **AND**
- At least 10 days have passed since your symptoms first appeared.

Most children and staff members can return to care/work based on improved symptoms and the passage of time. Local health departments may recommend that some individuals (for example, immunocompromised individuals) receive two negative tests in a row, 24 hours apart.

The provider should allow staff who are not feeling well to remain home without penalty. Under Executive Order 2020-36, employees may not be discharged, disciplined, or otherwise retaliated against for staying home when he or she is at particular risk for infecting others with COVID-19.

Families are encouraged to have back-up child care plans if the child or a family member becomes ill or is required to self-quarantine due to possible COVID-19.