

The Build-A-Plan Tool: Maryland's Child Care COVID-19 Plan

CUSTOMIZE YOUR PLAN HERE: Build A Full or Partial Plan!

Consider each of the suggested strategies below and determine which practices are a good fit for your program. Our program will use the following strategies to encourage physical/social distancing in our learning environments:

Check all options that you would like to include in your plan.

- Rearranging furniture to section off play spaces and maintain 6-foot separation, when possible.
- Limiting the number of children in one space at a time (e.g., using Velcro strips, or a pocket chart to show how many children may be in an area at one time).
- Having duplicates of toys/materials and/or setting up multiple areas for high-interest activities (e.g., multiple block areas or art stations).
- Helping preschool children define their personal space using yarn, masking tape, mats, carpet squares, sheets of cardboard, hula hoops, etc.
- Use of plexiglass dividers between play spaces so children can still see each other.
- Using markers (e.g., tape) on the floor to indicate spaces to line up.
- Conducting more activities in small groups (e.g., read-alouds, introducing a topic) that might usually be done in a large-group (e.g., circle time).
- Planning activities that do not require close physical contact between individual children.
- Incorporating additional outside time as much as feasible.
- Encouraging children to use alternate greetings or shows of affection that limit physical contact (e.g., waving, bowing, or curtsying to each other; air hugs or high fives).
- Staff will continue to provide hands-on support for any child with a special health care need (e.g., assisting with mobility equipment, nebulizers, communication devices, etc.)
- Limiting non-essential visitors, volunteers, and activities, including groups of children or adults.
- Canceling or postponing field trips and special events that convene larger groups of children and families.

