Interim Guidance for Temperature Screening at Child Care Programs Serving Children of Essential Personnel

In cooperation with the Maryland Department of Health and the Maryland State Department of Education, the following interim guidance has been developed to assist child care facilities in daily temperature screening as recommended by the CDC without the need for Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). This guidance may change as PPE becomes more widely available.

Temperature screening should be conducted daily on each child upon arrival to the child care facility using the following process:

- The individual child’s parent/guardian who is dropping off the child should take the child’s temperature upon arrival while being directly observed by child care program staff
- Temperature checks should be conducted while maintaining social distancing to the greatest extent possible
- The child’s parent/guardian should use a personal thermometer brought from home; this thermometer should only be used for that child/family and should not be handled by the child care program staff
- After taking the temperature, the child’s parent/guardian should show the temperature result to the child care program staff for recording
- In the event that a family does not have access to a personal thermometer for their child, the parent/guardian should use a non-contact thermometer provided by the child care program; the parent/guardian should perform hand hygiene and don single use gloves prior to taking the child’s temperature
- Non-contact thermometers should be cleaned routinely as recommended by CDC for infection control
- Children with a fever or other signs of illness should not be admitted to the child care facility