

Catholic Mutual... "CARES"

Emergency Daycare during COVID-19 Pandemic

During this unprecedented time of the COVID-19 pandemic, there are many locations struggling with the question whether to operate a daycare. Different entities may be requesting daycare services from your facilities and therefore great care and consideration should be given to reduce any potential risk to you or the Arch/Diocese. First and foremost, your Arch/Diocese should be consulted. The following guidelines should be followed if you are considering a daycare operation at your location.

- If the Arch/Diocese wants to allow the opening of daycares, it should be allowed only if the facility operated a daycare previous to this pandemic. The physical space used for a daycare is a vitally important factor for the safety of the children and staff.
- If the Arch/Diocese wants to allow the re-opening of a daycare, careful consideration should be given to the age groups being served. For instance, most of the daycares in your schools only serve the school population for before/after childcare. These spaces are not suited for infants and toddlers without modifications, and the staff is not experienced in the care of infants and toddlers.
- All CDC, State and Local Health Department guidelines on screening, segregating (social distancing of the children) and sanitizing should be followed to keep everyone safe and healthy. We recommend that you get guidance from the health department on taking temperatures of any staff and child upon arrival at the daycare. Obviously, sick people shouldn't be in the daycare, which could cause a significant problem with staffing. The immediate need that comes to mind are the use of gloves, and masks. As you may know, these critical items may be difficult to procure. Also, the daycare should utilize a thermometer(s) that will not spread the virus.
- It is recommended that daily updates from the CDC and State and Local Health Departments are heeded and policies updated as needed. Please refer to the CDC's website at <https://www.cdc.gov/>.
- A protocol should be established for what happens if a child, child's family member, employee, volunteer or someone they live with becomes sick with the virus. **The most precautionary measure in that instance is to shut the location down to avoid the spread of the virus.**
- If guidelines are not provided by the local governmental agency, legal counsel should be sought to address how to handle the intake of children that are not usually students at your daycare, what steps need to be taken around immunization and other records you would normally require from new students.

If you have any further questions, please contact your Risk Management Representative.

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