



Updated COVID-19 FAQs for Child Care

July 14, 2022

The Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) recognizes the importance of early childhood care and education to families and communities. We are committed to ensuring child care centers stay open for the well-being of children, parents, and the economy. These FAQs attempt to address common questions related to child care centers in the Commonwealth.

Q: Can a child care provider lose their license for not following the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) COVID-19 guidance?

A: It is not mandatory to follow federal or state COVID-19 guidance. The VDOE will continue to inspect regulated and licensed programs for health and safety as required by law and regulation. This includes the reporting of communicable diseases. Currently, child care centers are required to report the presence of persons with symptoms of COVID-19 in the facility, suggesting an outbreak, to your local health department immediately per the Virginia Disease Reporting and Control Regulations (12VAC5-90-90 D).

Q: Are providers that received grant funds through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Child Care Stabilization Grant Program expected to have mask requirements for children or staff?

A: Federal and state COVID-19 guidance are not mandatory. Programs that accepted federal relief funding should follow the updated CDC guidance to the extent practicable and provide parents the right to opt children out of mask mandates.

Q: Where can I find the most up-to-date guidance for child care provider settings in Virginia?

A: The VDOE will continue to post the most recent guidance and relevant child care resources on www.doe.virginia.gov/cc/covid-19. Here is the most recent [guidance](#), which is not mandatory and not subject to enforcement by the Office of Child Care Health and Safety. The VDOE will continue to inspect regulated and licensed programs for health and safety requirements based on the Code of Virginia and in regulation (8VAC20-770 through 8VAC20-850, as appropriate). The Virginia Department of Health (VDH) also provides guidance for child care facilities, which can be found on [VDH's K-12 and Child Care Guidance website](#).

Q: What is the guidance for employees working in child care provider settings?

A: As relates to staff, providers should refer to the [Virginia Department of Labor and Industry \(DOLI\)](#) standards and updates regarding COVID-19.