

Early Care & Covid-19 Webinar Questions

Information as of 10/26/2020

1. What are your recommendations for children wearing masks?
 - a. Any child that has the physical, emotional, and mental ability to safely put on and take off a mask should be encouraged to do so. This is generally above the age of 2 years, but may vary from child-to-child. Caregivers should be encouraged to practice mask wearing with their children.
 - b. Masks are a great way to prevent transmission, and whenever anyone is using them, they are lowering risk of disease for themselves and others.
2. What are your recommendations for best practices in schools?
 - a. The evidence is increasingly clear that the basic protective strategies go a long way at reducing spread of Covid-19. This includes masking, small/stable cohorts, hand-washing, distancing, screening and testing.
3. What are the long-term effects for someone who has Covid-19?
 - a. We are still learning since Covid-19 has not been around for very long. Although it does not happen often, some children appear to have ongoing symptoms months after their initial infection.
4. What are your recommendations for cohorts?
 - a. The California Department of Public Health and California Department of Social Services (report 6/5/20)* defines a cohort as 14 children and 2 adults for older children (4 years and older). For younger children, the group size should be less than 12, but no larger than recommended. When determining the size of the cohort, please consider adult/child ratios.

*Report at [covid19.ca.gov](https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/cohorts.aspx)
 - b. A stable cohort is children who stay in the same group across time with the same adults. Stable cohorts decrease the risk of broad spread if there is 1 case, and allows for other stable cohorts/pods to stay open.
5. What are the risks for adults (early childhood educators, providers)?
 - a. We need to acknowledge the risk to adults is real, and do what we can to protect early childhood educators and school staff in schools/care settings (by supporting the measures they implement) and homes (by keeping sick kids home). It is important to remember that data suggest that risk for adults in early care and education settings is greater from each other, than from children.

6. What can we expect during Flu Season?
 - a. Flu season is just going to make it harder, because we are going to have treat all those children as possibly having Covid-19. This underscores why it will be even more important for people to get their flu shots. But thankfully, all of the measures we are putting in place for Covid-19 should also help prevent flu transmission.
 - b. Unfortunately, there are no symptoms that help us know whether a runny nose, cough, etc is from Covid-19 or other viruses. We will have to treat children with those symptoms as possibly having Covid-19, and recognize that the spread of non-COVID colds to other children will also add to the confusion. In practice, this means more carefully following the "stay-at-home rules" of the early care and education center.
7. Where can I access the cleaning guides that were presented at the webinar?
 - a. Guidance for California Child Care Providers during the Covid-19 Pandemic, including cleaning and hand washing posters, can be found: <https://cchp.ucsf.edu/>.
8. What advice do you have now that we're in fire season in California and we are unable to be outdoors due to Air Quality concerns?
 - a. If you're forced inside because of poor air quality, it's even more important than ever that everyone where masks.
 - b. Some facilities have ventilation systems with filters. Window provides a natural source of ventilation. If the AQI is okay, safely opening a window provides ventilation. For a recent Licensing Provider Notice with information and resources on Air Quality and Wildfires go to <https://www.cdss.ca.gov/Portals/9/CCLD/PINs/2020/CCP/PIN-20-27-CCP.pdf>.
 - c. An air purifier with a HEPA filter will help. Avoid ozone emitting air purifiers.

Please see the full webinar recording and presentations slides: <https://coronavirus.ucsf.edu/cares>

References

1. Perkins TA, España G. Optimal Control of the COVID-19 Pandemic with Non-pharmaceutical Interventions. Bull Math Biol. 2020;82(9):118. Published 2020 Sep 4. doi:10.1007/s11538-020-00795-y
<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7473596/>
2. Nicola Fuchs-Schündeln & Dirk Krueger & Alexander Ludwig & Irina Popova, 2020. "The Long-Term Distributional and Welfare Effects of Covid-19 School Closures," NBER Working Papers 27773, National Bureau of Economic Research, Inc.
<https://cpb-us-w2.wpmucdn.com/web.sas.upenn.edu/dist/9/544/files/2020/09/CovidSchools.pdf>