



Town of Walpole
Health Department
135 School Street
Walpole, MA 02081
Tel 508 660 7321 Fax 508 660 6345



March 4, 2020

Dear Daycare Provider,

You are receiving this notice as you were identified as a daycare provider in the Town of Walpole. The Walpole Health Department has been closely following the continuously changing coronavirus (COVID-19) situation. The Department of Public Health (DPH) recognizes that there are several procedures that are not in place yet, however they are working closing with the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and the Federal Government to develop more guidelines as more information is gathered. The CDC and DPH have been providing very informative updates via their websites:

CDC: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

DPH: <https://www.mass.gov/resource/information-on-the-outbreak-of-coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19>

At this time, the risk in Massachusetts is low. At the same time, the risk for the influenza virus is very high. It is important to note that Massachusetts residents are much more likely to become sick with a cold or the flu than to be exposed to COVID-19. Many of the precautions that help prevent colds and the flu can help protect against other respiratory viruses, including COVID-19.

There is currently no vaccine to prevent coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). The best way to prevent illness is to avoid exposure. As a reminder, CDC always recommends everyday preventive actions to help prevent the spread of respiratory diseases, including:

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces (tables, countertops, door handles, cots, bathrooms) using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe.
- Follow CDC's recommendations for using a facemask.
 - *At this time CDC does not recommend that people who are well wear a facemask to protect themselves from respiratory diseases, including COVID-19.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom; before eating; and after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.
- If soap and water are not readily available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol. Always wash hands with soap and water if hands are visibly dirty.
- Stay home when you are sick!

For information about handwashing, see [CDC's Handwashing](#) website

For information specific to healthcare, see [CDC's Hand Hygiene in Healthcare Settings](#)

CDC also has [specific guidance for travelers](#).

People (especially children) with flu-like symptoms including a fever and signs/symptoms of a lower respiratory illness (cough or shortness of breath) should CALL their primary health care provider to review symptoms and receive guidance on next steps.

Anyone who thinks they may have been exposed to COVID-19 should also CALL their healthcare provider immediately.

At this time there are no other specific guidelines for schools; guidelines will be developed for each individual community, with the close guidance of the CDC and DPH, as the need arises.

In order to be vigilant during this time the Walpole Health Department asks that you please review your current procedures regarding cleaning and sanitizing toys, cots, changing stations as well as all other surfaces throughout your facility. We also ask that you emphasize the importance of proper handwashing within your facility to both your staff and children; encouraging routine hand washing amongst staff and children throughout the day will act as an important preventative measure during this time.

Please continue to reinforce your illness/sick policies that are already in place at your individual center for all staff and families.

The Health Department will continue to share new information with you, as necessary, about this evolving situation and please feel free to reach out with any questions or concerns: 508-660-7321.



Melissa Ranieri, RS, BS
Director of Public Health



Patricia Fisher, RN
Public Health Nurse