

Child Youth Services

Frequently Asked Questions:

We are talking about children here. What is your plan for keeping them safe from COVID infection?

We will enforce multiple new measures to do what we can to protect children, their parents and staff from COVID19 infection.

- Before reopening any CYS facilities for child care, the contracted custodial service will provide a deep cleaning no sooner than 48hrs before reopening.
- High touch surfaces (e.g. door knobs/handles, electronic devices), breakrooms and restrooms will be cleaned, then disinfected/sanitized by CYS and custodial staff at least three times per day.
- At the end of each day, all hand contact surfaces on the playground should be cleaned and disinfected using 1000 ppm bleach or other EPA-approved disinfectant. A clear water rinse is needed after a 1-minute wet contact time if using bleach solution, else, follow manufacturer instructions for use.
- Face coverings will be worn by all staff (including classroom, administrative, curbside, runners, kitchen, custodial and management) at all times while in/at the facility. Curbside staff will wear face covering and gloves.
- Hand hygiene will occur before and after glove use (using an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol or washing hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds).
- Caregiving Staff (CDC Only) will wear disposable aprons while in ratio.
- Kitchen Staff will wear disposable apron and gloves while preparing all meals.
- Infant bottles accepted at drop off will be placed in zip-lock bags then placed in designated classroom refrigerators in the zip-lock bag by caregiver.
- Staff will be required to wear fresh gloves and wash hands before and after each bottle feeding.
- At nap time, children's naptime mats (or cribs) will be spaced out as much as possible, ideally six feet apart, and children will be positioned head to toe.

Why has the capacity for each CDC been reduced so much? Will this capacity change as the HPCON levels change?

As a result of COVID-19 Child and Youth Services, like virtually all services on the Garrison, has had to change operationally. New health protocols and procedures have been implemented. The goal is to keep staff and children safe by minimizing exposure and contact between staff members, restricting access into the facility, and implementing increased preventive measures. As HPCON levels change you will most likely see an increase in our capacity as far as child care spaces are concerned.

What is the priority for children who will receive service?

The priority for care is as follows:

- 1) Children of Direct Care CY5 Staff
- 2) Single/Dual Military
- 3) Active Duty with a Working Spouse
- 4) Single/Dual DOD Civilians
- 5) DoD Civilian with a Working Spouse

*(Mission Essential patrons with signed and approved mission essential forms on file have priority in their category)

How many military families will be notified through the priority placement program?

CYS is in the process of providing around 175 spaces as part of PHASE ONE. Each family will receive a personal phone call from our Parent Central Services staff.

What will be the order of opening for CY5 facilities?

PHASE ONE: CDC 3 and SAC 1

PHASE TWO: CDC 1 and SAC 2

PHASE THREE: CDC 4 and the Youth Center

Will child drop off and pickup be changed?

Yes. Child drop off and pick up occurs via curbside only. Parents are responsible for removing their child/children from car at drop off and placing their child/children in car at pick up.

When facilities open, will their hours of operation be limited or curtailed or will they be fully operational?

CYS will operate from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily for the foreseeable future.

What if I've missed the deadline to get on the mission essential list?

You can still submit your signed mission essential form but will only receive care as space is available.

What if I have recently PCSd and need to be on the Mission Essential list?

CYS is currently only taking current enrollments (previous to COVID-19). New patrons may submit their mission essential paperwork but will only receive care on a case by case basis and as space is available.

Patrons can contact Parent Central Services at 301-677-1149 for further information. For information on Army Fee Assistance please visit www.childcareaware.org. Another child care resource is www.marylandfamilynetwork.org.

What precautions are being taken for child care and CYS workers in regard to their interactions with children and their own personal safety while they work?

If a fever is suspected when child is in care, the child should be moved to the isolation room for a temperature screening. If the child has a fever, the child will be sent home and should remain in the isolation room until pick up.

If your child is sent home due to fever or other illness he/she may be unable to attend child care for up to 10 days. This guidance will be explained in more detail to patrons who are contacted for this type of scenario complete with a form outlining the specifics. CYS will address payment during the 10 days with each patron.

Any staff who is tested or placed on quarantine/isolation for COVID-19 is required to undergo prescreening prior to returning to work. Supervisors will ask and document prescreening questions 1-6 on form "*Clearing Personnel to Return to the Workplace During the Coronavirus Pandemic.*" If the employee answers yes to any question, that employee will be referred to Occupational Health Clinic or Installation Public Health Department to determine whether or not the employee should be permitted to return to work.

Family or Cafeteria style dining is temporarily suspended. Classroom staff will prepare food plates and fill cups for children away from the dining tables to prevent possible contamination from sneezing or coughing. Whenever possible, staff will maintain six feet separation or as close to six feet possible, in between each child during mealtime.

If I am a single service member/dual military family and mission essential and I did not make the list, what alternatives do I have?

Patrons can contact Parent Central Services at 301-677-1149 for further information. For information on Army Fee Assistance please visit www.childcareaware.org. Another child care resource is www.marylandfamilynetwork.org.

There is a child care giver in my neighborhood. Is there a problem with leaving my children with them?

Anyone providing more than 10 hours of child care a week must be a certified Family Child Care (FCC) provider with CYS. Using unauthorized care is both dangerous and jeopardizes your eligibility for housing. Please contact our FCC Director at 301-677-1378 for more information.

I would like to care for children in my home. How do I get authorized to become a Family Child Care (FCC) Provider?

In order to provide more than 10 hours of child care in any Garrison housing area an individual must be a certified Family Child Care (FCC) provider. Those interested in becoming a provider can call the FCC office at 301-677-1378. To become a certified FCC provider, you must pass a local background check; pass inspections by the Fire, Safety and Preventive Medicine Offices; as well as attend a minimum 38 hours of training. The training includes child abuse identification and prevention, first aid and Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) training.

The FCC Director or designee may begin the certification procedures which include the following:

- (a) Local Background Checks
- (b) Orientation Training
- (c) Consent for Home Inspections
- (d) Child Abuse Prevention Training
- (e) Successful completion of the Fire, Health, and Safety Inspections
- (f) Prescreening interview

What happens if my child has a fever? Will I be expected to pay for the days my child is prevented from attending a CDC due to a fever?

If your child is sent home due to fever or other illness he/she may be unable to attend child care for up to 10 days. According to Army Public Health Command, children may return once symptoms have improved, 10 days have passed since the onset of symptoms, fever has been absent for 72 hours without the use of fever reducing medications, and the child/youth is able to participate in daily activities. CYS will address payment during the 10 days with each patron.

Will there be any summer camps this year?

Yes and no. CYS will be open this summer but it will not look like any summer camp we have ever provided before. Field trips will most likely not be allowed during HPCON Bravo and health precautions will prevent children from choosing their activity rooms. More summer camp information will be provided to approved summer camp patrons by Parent Central Services and your child's CYS program.

Will the Teen Center reopen?

The Teen Center will reopen most likely at HPCON Alpha. Until then the space will be utilized to assist with our current school age waitlist.

Will there be Youth Sports this year?

We hope so! However there is no plan currently to provide team sports or SKIES until at least HPCON Bravo but most likely HPCON Alpha. Stay tuned to our Facebook page for more information!

What is the future of child care on post?

COVID-19 has posed many challenges to our community at large, with child care being among the greatest we have faced. The intention behind closing our child care facilities continues to be to ensure the safety of all children, staff and families.

In order to ensure the safety of our community the plan to reopen must be well planned, phased and deliberate with a focus on adopting all of the new health precautions that have been required by IMCOM G9 and Center for Disease Control and Prevention. But CYS will continue to do everything possible to provide as much child care and child development programs as condition allow.