



COVID-19: Childcare and Out of School Time Fall 2021

Dr. Leah Costello, Timber Lane Pediatrics

Dr. Breena Holmes, VCHIP

Ilisa Stalberg, VDH

Sally Kerschner, VDH

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We welcome this time to talk with you

We at the Vermont Department of Health and the American Academy of Pediatrics-Vermont Chapter are pleased to be able to talk with you today.

Dr. Leah Costello will present on COVID 19 updates and answer your questions. We will also have some updates from the Vermont Department of Health

Dr. Leah Costello of Timberlane Pediatrics

COVID 19 overview and discussion with child care operators

June, 2021: Rescinding of the Governor's E.O.

As of June 14, 2021, more than 80% of eligible Vermonters received at least the first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine and Governor Phil Scott authorized the move to Step 4 of the [Vermont Forward Plan](#), lifting the Executive Order and the restrictions that were enacted to control COVID 19.

The public was encouraged to adopt the Universal guidance which encourages Vermonters to wear masks and practice social distancing if unvaccinated. Also practice good hygiene (hand washing) and be cautious about traveling.

Also, the guidance for schools, child care, and other child serving setting such as summer camps was lifted.

Advisory Memo from DCF Commissioner Sean Brown

August 18, 2021

All children and staff should stay home if they:

- Show symptoms of COVID-19;
- Have a fever (temperature greater than 100.4°F); or
- Are currently in quarantine due to close contact with an individual with COVID-19 or in isolation due to testing positive for COVID-19.

Due to the fact that the population of children in child care and out-of-school time care is generally not yet eligible for vaccination, programs should require universal masking for *all* children and staff when indoors (with certain exceptions)

Child care and out-of-school-time programs should continue to participate in contact tracing as requested by the Health Department.

Data describing cases and vaccinations are at:
[COVID-19 Weekly Summary \(healthvermont.gov\)](https://healthvermont.gov/covid-19/weekly-summary)

Signs/Symptoms and % in Children with Symptoms:

Runny Nose 56%

Cough 48%

Headache 46%

Fatigue 43%

Sore Throat 39%

Muscle Pain 26%

Loss of Smell/Taste 25%

Fever 20%

Average illness duration among Children is 5 days

COVID Vaccines for Children

We are hopeful that by Winter 2021 - 2022, there will be vaccine approval for children under 12 years of age. This will be a major step in establishing COVID 19 vaccines for all children on an ongoing basis such as is the case for many other vaccines (measles, polio, pertussis, etc.)

Child Care Providers can encourage their families to get their children vaccinated. Families can talk with their health care providers about any concerns or hesitancy.

The Vermont AAP has a series of Family Forums featuring Vermont's pediatricians explaining about the COVID vaccine for children. The videos are available at:
<http://www.aapvt.org/news/aapvt-holds-family-forums-covid-19-vaccine-adolescents>

Summary of Key Points

As of June 2021, there is no formal guidance or Executive Orders due to the Step 4 lifting of restrictions. This means the CDD guidance has been discontinued.

DCF memo: child care programs should require universal masking for all children and staff when indoors (with certain exemptions for medical or behavioral.)

Child Care Programs Child Care providers are encouraged to create any COVID related ongoing practices or policies that use best practice and are in compliance with CDD regulations and are congruent with the best practices in Caring for our Children. This process can be done in communication with their staff and families.

Contact Tracing will continue via the VDH and the VDH workforce of “AMTrace”

Resources for Child Care Operators

- > VDH is finalizing information to guide families and child care programs on return to child care after illness.
- > Vaccine Information and Clinic Schedules:
<https://www.healthvermont.gov/covid-19/vaccine/getting-covid-19-vaccine>
- > Testing Information and Sites: <https://www.healthvermont.gov/covid-19/testing>
- > VDH FAQ's: <https://www.healthvermont.gov/covid-19/faqs>
- Families with Children: <https://www.healthvermont.gov/covid-19/your-community/families-children>
- Child Care and Out of School Programs: Information on handling a suspected case, checklist, letters for families, line list, etc.
 - <https://www.healthvermont.gov/covid-19/your-community/child-care-programs>
- > For more information call VDH: 802.863.7240 or (toll free) 833.722.0860



THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU

We thank you all for your hard work and perseverance during this pandemic. We all should be proud of what we have accomplished here in Vermont.

The work of child care providers and your staff has been critical in combatting the pandemic threat in Vermont.

You are the people who have stayed open throughout this pandemic and used your skills and knowledge and creativity to help us all develop processes and techniques to keep our children safe.



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