



ECE News

August, 2022



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Infectious Disease Webinar for ECE Providers

The Kane County Health Department has released a two part educational webinar specifically for ECE program staff. [Preventing Infectious Diseases in Childcare Settings: A Webinar for Childcare Providers](#) teaches the basics of common infectious diseases and infection control strategies and reporting. It takes approximately 45 minutes to complete both videos and addresses modes of pathogen transmission, the most common infectious diseases in ECE centers, assessing your operation to determine if appropriate infection control measures are in place, when to exclude a child from the program due to illness, and disease reporting. Continuing education credits will be available for this activity.



Human Monkeypox Virus (MPV) Interim Guidance for Early Childhood Centers

In our July newsletter, we shared information on the growing Monkeypox Virus (MPV) epidemic. MPV is a disease that can cause flu-like symptoms and a rash. Human-to-human transmission of MPV occurs by direct contact with lesions or infected body fluids, or from exposure to respiratory secretions during prolonged face-to-face close contact. A person is considered to be infectious until there is full healing of the rash with formation of a fresh layer of skin.

The Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) recently published [strategies for preventing MPV transmission and managing potential exposure in ECE programs](#). Be sure to contact the Kane County Health Department to report any suspect or confirmed cases and discuss next steps for investigating the case and managing potential exposure by calling 630-208-3801.

NEW COVID-19 Guidance from CDC

ECE providers should be aware of new guidance from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) that was also adopted by IDPH and the Kane County Health Department. In [Operational Guidance for K-12 Schools and Early Care and Education Programs to Support Safe In-Person Learning](#), recommendations were made that affect ECE programs, including:

- Removed the recommendation to cohort
- Changed recommendation to conduct screening testing to focus on high-risk activities during high COVID-19 Community Level or in response to an outbreak
- Removed the recommendation to quarantine after exposure to someone with COVID-19, except in high-risk congregate settings
- Removed information about Test to Stay
- Added detailed information on when to wear a mask, managing cases and exposures, and responding to outbreaks.

If you have questions about the new guidelines, see our [KCHD COVID-19 Interim School and Early Childhood Education Center Guidance](#), updated 8/19/22, or email: school@co.kane.il.us

Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation (ECMHC)

ECMHC aims to build the capacity of childcare providers, families, programs and systems, in order to prevent and reduce the impact of mental health challenges and social emotional delays among children ages birth to 5. The consultants are employed by Kane County Health Department in Aurora. Childcare providers are the point of contact for ECMHC. Reasons to contact your ECMHC include:

- Challenges with a specific child in a classroom
- Overall classroom concerns- particularly those involving social-emotional skill building
- Challenges communicating with a parent or family
- Challenges among staff members, staff relationships
- Seeking support with social-emotional skillbuilding and understanding social emotional development
- Seeking Gateways approved trainings- typically on topics of social emotional skillbuilding

[ECMHC program details and consultant contact information.](#)

Weekly Testing for Unvaccinated Daycare Remains State Mandate

[Illinois Executive Order 2021-22](#) remains in effect and states that daycare center workers who have not been fully vaccinated against COVID-19 must undergo weekly testing for COVID-19 until they establish that they are fully vaccinated against COVID-19. The Kane County Health Department offers free COVID-19 testing at our KaneVax Hub, which can be recommended to unvaccinated staff for weekly testing, or to parents of children with COVID-like symptoms. Walk-ins are welcome. View address and hours [here](#).

Connect with KCHD

The Kane County Health Department is your partner in ensuring a safe environment for daycare staff and students. Visit our website for [current guidance and resources for ECE programs](#).

Report potential COVID outbreaks to KCHD at: redcap.link/kaneoutbreakreport

Our School Team is available to answer questions via email to: school@co.kane.il.us

Please feel free to share this newsletter with your colleagues. Any daycare provider can sign up for KCHD notifications for daycares by completing [this form](#).