

PROGRAM REOPENINGS

Member Perspectives

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Cleaning, Sanitizing, PPE and Safety Procedures Member Spotlight

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“ We want to be safe. That's our top priority. We can never guarantee that a child or staff member is not going to get sick, but we are doing everything in our power to reduce the possibility of that.”

After programs closed in March 2020, IHSD began 1) studying and making sense of emerging guidance from Head Start, CDE and county health officials to plan for re-opening, and 2) started bi-weekly calls with county health officials. On May 18, IHSD reopened one classroom of 10 children and three staff as a pilot for one month to test all procedures. Here are the highlights of our chat with Jennifer about the reopening.

Protocols Adopted:

Face Coverings

Staff: Wear masks all day (required), and face shields during screenings.

Children: Masks are highly encouraged but not required, masks are available



Taking Temperatures

Teachers: Required to take their temperatures prior to the start of their day

Children: Upon daily entry and after nap time.



Cleaning & Disinfecting

Products: Changed cleaning solution. Selected from [EPA products "list N"](#). **Hint:** Choose one with short 'sit-time'—cleaning agent dries quickly and reduces “do not touch time.” IHSD chose Clorox for Healthcare.



Cleaning intervals: Entry/drop-off; classroom: every 2 hours; play structures: between groups; lunch / food service: after contact, and bathroom: after contact.

Staffing: At all times, one staff assigned primarily to clean and disinfect. This shifted as the “every hour” sanitizing requirement was removed.

Sample Forms

- **Statement of Risk:** Parent form indicating they understand: an agency cannot guarantee a child will not contract COVID-19, and the steps the agency is taking to protect families. [Download](#)
- **Employee Attestation:** Staff form indicating they understand and will follow COVID-19 procedures. [Download](#)
- **Comparison Chart:** COVID-19 guidelines from varying agencies [Download](#)

Best Practice Tips

- Talk regularly with county health officials.
- Know the guidance.
- Pilot a classroom before going full scale.
- Ask for staff to “opt in” to return rather than requiring them.
- Train staff and parents via a virtual meeting before allowing children to return.