



**Agency Afterschool Respite and Agency Weekend Recreation  
Individual Needs and Risk Assessment**

October 21, 2020

As New Jersey prepares to reopen congregate day services, providers need to assess their ability to meet Federal and State guidance for COVID-19 preparedness and individuals, families and guardians need to assess whether they will elect to utilize Agency Afterschool Respite and Agency Weekend Recreation services, hereinafter referred to as “group respite services.” As per the Agency Afterschool Respite and Agency Weekend Recreation Re-opening requirements, this does not include Agency Overnight Respite.

It is expected that since guidelines are likely to change during this pandemic, the conversation facilitated by this tool will be ongoing and that parent, guardian, and provider decisions may change as plans move forward. Eligible families can request respite services by contacting PerformCare at 877-652-7624. Once the telephonic application for respite services is completed families will be linked to a provider with whom they can complete the Individual Needs and Risk Assessment prior to electing group respite.

The Children’s System of Care (CSOC) is asking all group respite service providers to complete this assessment together with parents and guardians prior to requesting authorization for these services in order to provide information that will assist the provider to develop their reopening plan and the family in their decision-making. Families currently receiving Agency or Self-Hire Respite must complete a Transition Application to elect group respite services.

This assessment is part of a three-pronged approach to ensure the reopening of group respite services occurs in a manner that is as safe as possible and reduces COVID risk. Accompanying documents that should be reviewed prior to completing this assessment are:

- [Facility Readiness Tool](#)
- [Agency Afterschool Respite and Agency Weekend Recreation COVID-19 Pandemic Guidance.](#)

Before any return to a group respite service the parent or guardian (and the youth if over 18) will need to review and sign the [Receipt of COVID-19 Information Form](#). This contains important information on the transmission, risk and prevention of COVID-19.

Date of completion or date of last update: Individual Name: Individual’s Age: Individual’s Contact Number: Individual’s Address:
Family/Residential Provider Providing Info: Email: Phone:
Day Provider Completing Form (name & title): Email: Phone:

In order to make an informed choice related to the return to group respite services, it is important that youth, parents and guardians are aware of how COVID-19 is spread, how to reduce the risk of getting COVID-19, and who may be at greater risk of getting sick. Information in this document related to COVID-19 is taken from Centers for Disease Control and Prevention<sup>1 2</sup> (CDC) to assist in this effort.

### **How COVID-19 Spreads**

The best evidence to date is that COVID spreads mainly through person to person, through respiratory droplets produced when infected person coughs, sneezes, or talks. These droplets can land in mouths or noses of people who are nearby or possibly be inhaled into the lungs. COVID-19 is more likely to spread between people who are in close contact with one another (within about 6 feet). Sometimes smaller particles can linger in the air leading to airborne transmission. It may also be possible that people can get COVID-19 by touching a surface or object that has the virus on it and then touching their own mouth, nose, or possibly their eyes.

### **How to Reduce the Risk of Getting COVID-19**

It is especially important for people at increased risk of severe illness from COVID-19, and those who live with them, to protect themselves from getting the virus. The best way for someone to protect themselves and help reduce the spread of COVID-19 is to:

- Stay home when you are sick;
- Maintain six feet social distancing from others and limit interactions with others as much as possible;
- Wash hands frequently;
- Wear a face mask (cloth or disposable) when there is interaction with others.

Face masks are a critical preventive measure and should be worn in public settings and when around people who don't live in the same household. They are **most** essential when social distancing is difficult. If an individual does not tolerate a face mask or it is not medically advisable to wear one, measures to reduce the risk of COVID-19 spread must occur, including social distancing, frequent hand washing, and cleaning and disinfecting frequently touched surfaces<sup>3</sup>.

### **Who is at Higher Risk**

Everyone, regardless of disability, is at risk for being exposed to COVID-19 and getting sick. Certain populations, including those who are older or have [underlying medical conditions](#) are more likely to become severely ill, which means that they may require hospitalization, intensive care, a ventilator to help them breathe, or may even die.

Per the CDC, certain disability groups might be at an increased risk of becoming infected.

- People who have limited mobility or cannot avoid close contact with others who may be infected;
- People who have trouble understanding information or practicing measures like hand washing and social distancing;
- People who may not be able to communicate symptoms of illness.

Families, guardians, providers and other stakeholders are encouraged to review the CDC links in this document for more information.

### **Underlying Medical Conditions**

While children have been less affected by COVID-19 compared to adults, some children develop severe illness. Children with underlying medical conditions are at increased risk for severe illness compared to children without underlying

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<sup>1</sup> [www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/faq.html](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/faq.html)

<sup>2</sup> [www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/people-at-increased-risk.html?CDC\\_AA\\_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Fneed-extra-precautions%2Fpeople-at-higher-risk.html](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/people-at-increased-risk.html?CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Fneed-extra-precautions%2Fpeople-at-higher-risk.html)

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover-guidance.html>

medical conditions. Current evidence on which underlying medical conditions in children are associated with increased risk is limited. **Please indicate if the youth is diagnosed with any of the following:**

Children with the following conditions might be at increased risk for severe illness. **Please indicate if the youth is diagnosed with any of the following and review the hyperlink to CDC guidance for that condition:**

Health/Risk Factor	Check all that apply
<a href="#">Asthma (moderate-to-severe)</a>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<a href="#">Cerebrovascular disease (affects blood vessels and blood supply to the brain)</a>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<a href="#">Cystic fibrosis</a>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<a href="#">Hypertension or high blood pressure</a>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<a href="#">Immunocompromised state (weakened immune system) from blood or bone marrow transplant, immune deficiencies, HIV, use of corticosteroids, or use of other immune weakening medicines</a>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<a href="#">Neurologic conditions, such as dementia</a>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<a href="#">Liver disease</a>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<a href="#">Pregnancy</a>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<a href="#">Pulmonary fibrosis (having damaged or scarred lung tissues)</a>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<a href="#">Smoking</a>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<a href="#">Thalassemia (a type of blood disorder)</a>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<a href="#">Type 1 diabetes mellitus</a>	<input type="checkbox"/>

If you indicated that one or more of the above listed health conditions exist, the youth **might be at increased risk** of severe illness if they get sick from COVID-19.

Other factors that may impact the decision of the parent or guardian (and the youth if over 18) to return to group respite services are how the youth tolerates certain things like wearing a face mask or other behaviors to reduce the risk of COVID-19.

**Please assess the following as it relates to the youth:**

SITUATIONAL AND BEHAVIORAL RISK FACTORS	Check all that apply
The youth is unable to follow social distancing protocols (being at least six feet apart from others).	<input type="checkbox"/>
The youth is unable to tolerate wearing a face mask or face shield.*	<input type="checkbox"/>
The youth does not tolerate or has a medical condition that would preclude them from wearing a face mask or face shield.*	<input type="checkbox"/>
The youth requires close personal care to complete activities of daily living needs.	<input type="checkbox"/>
The youth is unable to maintain good personal hygiene.	<input type="checkbox"/>
The youth engages in self-injurious behavior.	<input type="checkbox"/>
The youth is unable to generally comply with rules during transportation.	<input type="checkbox"/>
The youth engages in behaviors that may put him/her or others at risk of getting COVID-19. (Ex. Spitting, grabbing, biting, etc.).	<input type="checkbox"/>
The youth will not allow him/herself to be screened for COVID-19.	<input type="checkbox"/>
The youth has a tendency to wander away from a group.	<input type="checkbox"/>

*\*It is recognized that not all youth will tolerate a face mask, shield, or other PPE. However, caregivers should continue to encourage youth, with parent or guardian approval, to utilize face masks, shields, and other PPE as appropriate and medically advisable to reduce the spread of COVID-19.*

If you indicated that one or more of the above listed situational or behavioral risk factors exist, the youth **might be at increased risk** of being exposed to COVID-19.

No one can make the decision about electing group respite services but the parent or guardian (and the youth if over 18). After reviewing this document, consideration of risks related to COVID-19, and discussing specific questions and concerns you may have with the group respite services provider, parents or guardians should advise the group respite provider if they will be electing group respite services.

When group respite services reopen, what is the plan to transport the youth to and from the program?

- The youth will need transportation to and from the program. The family and guardian understand that the challenge of social distancing during transportation may impact access to group respite services.
  
- The parent or guardian is willing to provide transportation to the program for the youth.

Person Completing this Form (Print): \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_