

SENDCAA HEAD START BIRTH TO FIVE
COVID-19 PROGRAM RESPONSE PLAN
FOR 2020-2021

PROCEDURES TO PROTECT STAFF IN THE WORKPLACE DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC	
<p><i>This is a working document that will change as needed.</i></p> <p><i>SENDCAA Head Start Birth to Five will make closure decisions at a program level. We will seek input from the Policy Council and the Board of Directors.</i></p>	
Staff Arrival	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff will self-screen upon arrival each day. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Agassiz-Staff Office ○ Central-1st Therapy Room ○ Early-Staff Bathroom ○ Lisbon- Outside of SE door ○ South-Table by the Front Door ○ Wahpeton- Staff Office ○ West-Staff Office • Self-screen will require the staff to wash or hand sanitizer their hands, take temperature, and fill out the COVID-19 Screening Questionnaire each day.
Masks/ Face Shields	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Masks and face shields are available to staff upon request. Staff are not mandated to wear a mask or face shield in the classroom unless they choose (unless your site specifically has a mandate around it-see below). • When staff are utilizing shared space (work room, bathroom, printers), staff are required to wear masks. • If a staff person, who is not a classroom teacher, enters a classroom they will wear a mask/face shield upon entry. • When corresponding with parents, therapists, and outside service providers, we require wearing face masks or shields. • If the classroom is located in a public school building, staff will follow the guidance provided by the school- please see below: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Agassiz staff: You'll notice the "masks required" placards upon entering the building. Please wear masks in the common spaces. When you're planted and socially distanced at a work space you are able to work sans mask. ○ Children enrolled at Agassiz Site: Students will be required to wear masks in the hallways, gym, classrooms and playgrounds unless we can guarantee that they will be 6 feet from everyone else. We do realize that many kids will not keep the masks on and we will work towards getting them all to keep the masks on- but we are communicating the requirement to all parents and staff. Adults should model for the students. ○ West staff: Staff will be wearing masks in common areas in the building such hallways, planning spaces, etc. Classroom staff may choose to wear their mask in their classroom if they wish, but are not required. When stationed in a work space, you are able to work without a mask. ○ Children enrolled at West Site: Students will be required to wear masks in areas that have shared spaces such as the hallways, playgrounds, gym, and gross motor rooms. When in

	the classroom, children will be able to take masks off as deemed appropriate.
Gloves	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gloves will be used by staff when: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ In direct contact with bodily fluids, ○ During temperature checks, will need to be changed if a staff member touches child ○ Diapering, wiping a nose ○ Disinfecting surfaces ○ If a child becomes sick and you must be within 6 ft of that child • Follow universal precautions, including when changing gloves (between tasks) and how to remove gloves • Gloves will not be worn continuously throughout the day • Staff will properly dispose of or wash PPE using the CDC recommended method (see attachment)
Clothing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Smocks are available for staff to wear upon request. • Staff will be asked to keep an extra set of clothing on site. This is in case they need to go into another classroom.
Staff Training & Communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The SENDCAA Head Start COVID-19 Program Response Plan will be available for staff to view on the SENDCAA website. • At Pre-Service, staff will receive the finalized plan and will review on their own and sign off on a training form stating they have read and understand the response plan and will act in accordance to plan. • Any additional communication and training will be communicated to staff. • This plan will be posted in the workplace. • This plan is fluid and changes may need to be made. If changes are made, staff will be notified in a timely manner.
Ventilation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If staff have access to fresh air, they are encouraged to open windows to promote airflow. Must remember to close & lock window at end of the day. • Teachers are encouraged to bring children outside as much as daily schedule allows (<i>this includes going for walks, reading outside, playground play, etc.</i>)
Cleaning & Disinfecting	<p>Our program will follow all cleaning and disinfecting guidelines from the Center of Disease Control (CDC) and Caring for our Children (CFOC). The CFOC provides national standards for cleaning, sanitizing and disinfection of educational facilities for children. Throughout this time we will implement the National Health and Safety Performance Standards for routine scheduled cleaning at the site. This document for cleaning is attached.</p> <p>Staff will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clean AND disinfect frequently touched surfaces daily. This includes tables, doorknobs, light switches, countertops, handles, desks, phones, keyboards, toilets, faucets, and sinks. • If surfaces are dirty, clean them. Use soap and water prior to disinfection. • Follow the Building & Classroom Daily Checklists, as usual.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are gallon jugs with a hand sprayer to clean playground/outdoor equipment off after a classroom uses it. We need to allow a few minutes of drying time before the next classroom utilizes the recently cleaned equipment. The same precautions need to be taken in Gross Motor Rooms and therapy rooms, items need to be cleaned after each classroom uses space.
Staff should follow all guidelines from the CDC to protect themselves and others. SENDCAA Head Start Birth to Five is reminding staff to practice the following steps to reduce the spread of COVID-19. Review guidelines below.	
Wash your hands often	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wash hands upon arrival to work and before leaving at the end of the day. Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds especially after you have been in a public place, or after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing. It's especially important to wash: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Before eating or preparing food Before touching your face After using the restroom After leaving a public place After blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing After handling your cloth face covering After changing a diaper After caring for someone sick After touching animals or pets Before and after disinfecting toys and surfaces If soap and water are not readily available, use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol. Cover all surfaces of your hands and rub them together until they feel dry. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This applies to staff only. Children are to only wash their hands with soap and water. Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
Practice social distancing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff are asked to always keep physical distancing in mind. Individuals should do their best to maintain at least 6-feet from others (coworkers, therapists, parents, etc.) and wear PPE when in public areas of the building. Attend meetings virtually, if given the opportunity.
Cover coughs & sneezes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Always cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze or use the inside of your elbow. Throw used tissues in the trash. Immediately wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not readily available, clean your hands with a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.
Monitor your daily health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Be alert for symptoms. Watch for fever, cough, shortness of breath, or other symptoms of COVID-19. If you feel sick, please stay home.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Especially important if you are running essential errands, going into the office or workplace, and in settings where it may be difficult to keep a physical distance of 6 feet. • Take your temperature if symptoms develop. • Don't take your temperature within 30 minutes of exercising or after taking medications that could lower your temperature, like acetaminophen. • Follow CDC guidance if symptoms develop.
When a child becomes sick	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This will be decided by each site how they will handle this situation due to space at each site. Options will be: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ If a child gets sick during the day, the child will go to a space in the classroom away from all of the children and a staff person will remain near the child until they are picked up. ○ If a child gets sick during the day they will be moved to another room. A staff will supervise the child until they are picked up for the day. ○ Staff will utilize PPE and do their best to stay 6 ft away from the child. • Parents will need to pick up their child immediately. • Agassiz Site: The designated Care Room for the Head Start Program is the Library. If ECSE is utilizing the library with a sick child, we will utilize other spaces provided guidance from the site. • Central Site: This will be handled on a case by case basis depending on the situation, staffing that particular day, and what staff are comfortable with in the given situation. • Wahpeton Site: If a child becomes ill during school time, Family Support Staff will take the child to the office. • South Site: A child who is ill will remain in the classroom away from the other children with an adult nearby. • Early Site: A child who is ill will remain in the classroom away from the other children with an adult nearby. • West Site: Children will be removed from the classroom when ill and will have a safe space in the office to rest. If staffing doesn't allow this, the child would need to stay in the classroom until parent is able to pick up. • Lisbon Site: If numbers allow, the child will be taken into another room by an adult until parents arrive; if numbers do not allow, the child will be taken to the SE end of the classroom and the curtains partially shut so that the staff member is accessible to the other staff person.
When an employee tests for COVID-19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If you are sick, please stay home. • See attachment.
Communication: Staff and Seesaw	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Due to times of uncertainty we ask that all staff have access to their work email on their personal devices at home. • All families will be enrolled on Seesaw for the program year. Seesaw will be utilized throughout the year to communicate regularly.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seesaw will also be utilized for virtual learning and reach out during classroom, site, or program closures due to COVID-19.
Education Services: Classroom Structure, Daily Schedule, & Modifications to Existing Policies/Procedures	
Classroom ratios	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Full day classrooms will have 12 children enrolled at the beginning of the 2020-2021 academic year. West Fargo part-day will have 9 children enrolled in each session, due to agreement with WF ECSE. All other part-day classrooms will have 10 children enrolled in each session. Due to double sessions, ratios are lower so a classroom staff can be cleaning as needed throughout the session. Early Head Start ratio will stay at 8 children per classroom. Teachers are expected to break up the enrolled children and keep them in smaller groups, as much as possible, throughout the day.
Pick up/drop off	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Due to each site being different, staff will determine the best plan for pick up and drop off, options are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Car pick up/drop off Entry way pick up/drop off All children will be screened and temped upon drop off regardless of the method used. Central Site: Parents will not be allowed in classrooms, hallways, or any other areas of the building at this time. Pick up and drop off will be completed in the parking lot. Children will be screened in car. After passing screening, children will exit the car and be brought into the building by a Head Start staff. At the end of the day, parents will notify the Central site they are outside to pick up their child. The classroom will be notified and bring the child outside and hand the child off to the parent who is then responsible for walking the child to the car and buckling them in. Agassiz Site: Due to opening at a Level 3: policy is to not allow parents inside hallways, classrooms, etc. Head Start should have parents drop off at Door 12. Parents will remain in their vehicles until staff come outside to pick up children. Parents know that they will need to park west of the fire hydrant (along the grass), and not block bus drop off areas. West Site: Parents will not be allowed in classrooms, hallways, and in any other areas of the building. Parents will be dropping off at Door 4. Staff will be screening children right inside the door and will be bringing children to their appropriate classroom. Doors will open exactly at the start time of the session. Markings on the floor will indicate where parents can stand. These markings will ensure social distancing between families until they are able to be screened. If the spots are full, parents are asked to wait further away from the building or in their car until the line clears up. Parents are encouraged to wear masks while dropping off and picking up.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early Site: Parents will not be allowed in classrooms, hallways, or any other areas of the building at this time. Pick up and drop off will be completed at the main door, where staff will screen children when they arrive at 8:30. After passing screening, children will be brought to their classroom. Markings will be placed out on the deck for parents to social distance from each other while waiting to drop off or pick up their child. At 3:30 parents will be able to pick up, where the teacher will meet their parents outside. If parents arrive before 3:30, they will call Early Head Start to let staff know that they are there to pick up their child. • Wahpeton Site: Parent will bring child into the front entry to be screened by Family Support Staff. If child passes the screening they will come into the hallway to wash and prepare for breakfast. Staff will be positioned in the hallway so that parents go straight out of the building. All adults will be masked. • South Site: Parents will form a line facing east and exiting by the frontage road or University for drop off/pick up. Parents will not be allowed in classrooms, hallways, or any other areas of the building at this time. Pick up and drop off will be completed in the parking lot. Children will be screened in car. After passing screening, children will exit the car and be brought into the building by a Head Start staff. At the end of the day, parents will notify the South site they are outside to pick up their child. The classroom will be notified and bring the child outside and hand the child off to the parent who is then responsible for walking the child to the car and buckling them in. • Lisbon: Pick up and drop off will occur outside on the front sidewalk; children will be screened at that point also.
Home Visits/Conferences	To ensure the safety of our staff, we are not requiring home visits at this time. Conferences will be expected to take place following the SENDCAA Procedures for COVID-19. We recommend that these conferences take place outdoors if weather permits. See attachment.
Nap time	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As much as possible, cots should be separated with at least 6 feet between them. If this is not feasible, cots should be positioned so children are alternating head/feet. • South, Central, Early Head Start sites will be laundering blankets weekly using hot water. • Wahpeton and Lisbon will send blankets home, due to not having access to washer & dryers on site. • Nap blankets will be stored in large zip lock labeled bags. • A map will be created to show the layout of where children rest daily, and updated with any changes that occur. • Cots/nap mats will be disinfected daily. • Cots/nap mats will be deep-cleaned should a COVID-19 case occur in your classroom.
Family style meals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family style meals will be suspended indefinitely during the pandemic.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Teachers, teacher assistants, or kitchen staff will serve food. Follow all other Meal Service Policy guidelines.
Tooth brushing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tooth brushing will be suspended indefinitely during the pandemic. Families will be encouraged to support their child in regular tooth brushing at home. Tooth brushes and tooth paste will be sent home to all of the families.
Classroom guidance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimize the number of toys available in the classroom. Reduce clutter as much as possible. No items from home should be brought in the classroom. Provide more time outside as much as possible, while following Outdoor Play Procedure. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Go for walks, read outdoors, play on playground, etc. Teachers will fill up cups when providing water out on the playground. No visitors will be allowed in the classroom during pandemic. No field trips or events will take place during pandemic. <p>Choice time: A limited number of children will be allowed in each interest area at a time. Classroom staff will monitor the children's movement while in the classroom.</p> <p>Water/Sand Tables will not be used during this time.</p> <p>Playdough: If these materials are used, each child will have a container with their name on it, and used during small group lesson.</p> <p>Art Materials: All art materials will be stored in individual containers and labeled with their name.</p> <p>Dramatic Play: Keep easy to clean/disinfect items available.</p> <p>Large group, circle time, and group read aloud: Keep groups of children separated, teachers can float between groups, complete weekly lesson plan as prearranged.</p> <p>Wait time/lines: Staff will limit lines and wait time as much as possible. This includes for bathroom use, handwashing, for transitions, and on way to and from playground.</p>
Family Services, Enrollment, Attendance ...	
Enrolled siblings	Siblings enrolled in the program will be placed in the same classroom when we are able to do so.
Attendance	The SENDCAA Head Start Birth to Five program knows an important factor in school success is establishing a regular routine of attendance. This means attending each scheduled school day with on-time arrival and pick-up. Attendance will be strongly encouraged for healthy children. Any absences due to illness must follow the updated Illness policy.
Applications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Online applications are available for new applicants See COVID Application Expectations document
Parent Engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Due to drop off and pick up changes, and the effort to reduce people in the building; staff are encouraged to engage and support families from a distance. Phone calls, emails and Seesaw will all be acceptable forms of parent engagement.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If meeting with a family is necessary, COVID Application Expectations should be used.
Parent Committee and Goal Workshop	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will be suspended for the duration of the pandemic. We will plan for virtual options throughout the year for these events.
Health Services	
30 Day Deadlines	Programs must consult with parents to determine whether each child has ongoing sources of continuous, accessible health care and insurance coverage. If programs cannot meet the 30 day requirement, they will not be penalized but are expected to make this determination as soon as possible. These determinations should be made even if programs are providing remote services. In instances where the child does not have such a source of coverage or care, the program must continue to assist the family in accessing a source of care that meets the standard.
90 Day Deadlines	Within 90 calendar days after the child first attends the program, we are required to support the parents in ensuring the children are up-to-date, both for their preventative as well as primary medical and oral health care, as soon as feasible for the 2020-2021 program year. Programs will not be penalized for determining this information after the 90 day timeline. Programs must complete this requirement as soon as possible and should document their efforts to meet these requirements.
Mental Health & Disability Services	
Developmental Screening (Brigance and/or ASQ-3)	Developmental screens will be completed within 45 days of entrance whenever possible. For children attending on-site, screening will be conducted as it has been in the past, using the Brigance at the preschool level, and the ASQ-3 at Early Head Start. For children enrolled in the virtual option, parents will be invited to bring their child on-site for a brief, scheduled screening. If parents do not wish to do this, they will be asked to complete a parent report screening (ASQ-3) and return it as soon as possible. If the screen is not returned to the center within 45 days of entry, the parents will be called to discuss any potential concerns they have regarding their child's development. For all children, decisions regarding potential referrals will be made as a team, including parent, teacher, and coordinators, just as past years.
Social-Emotional Screening (ASQ:SE)	Teachers will complete the ASQ:SE within 45 days of entry for all children attending on-site. Parents will be asked to complete and return the ASQ:SE for all children, including children who attend on-site or virtual options. For children who are attending the virtual option and parents have not submitted the completed screen within 45 days of entry, the parents will be called to discuss any potential concerns they have regarding their child's development. For all children, decisions regarding potential referrals will be made as a team, including parent, teacher, and coordinators, just as past years.
Closing Classrooms, Sites, or Program-Going Virtual	
Throughout the 2020-2021 program year, we may have to close a classroom, site, or our program for a recommended time period by the North Dakota Department of Health. During these times we will still	

expect our staff to work with our children and families virtually. We will utilize Seesaw and ChildPlus to connect with our families.	
Education	<p>If a classroom or site is shut down due to exposure to COVID-19 teachers will then move to teaching virtually during that time.</p> <p>Staff will be expected to have 3 days of virtual lessons prepared ahead of time, as these closures may happen suddenly, depending on when we receive COVID-19 test results. Please see the Guidance for Virtual Learning for more information, which will be discussed during Pre-Service.</p> <p>Virtual lesson plans should continue to follow the curriculum, ELOF, and school readiness goals.</p> <p>Virtual lesson plans should be engaging and impactful while continuing to help our children prepare for Kindergarten.</p>
Family Services and ERSEA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If a classroom or site is shut down due to exposure to COVID-19 staff will then move to engaging virtually with parents during that time. • Enrollment applications or other parent engagement appointments should be rescheduled or completed virtually. • Children's attendance will be marked as present during distance learning days, with a note about participation being distance learning. No meals will be counted for them. • Goal-oriented work and crisis intervention work should continue with our families. Staff should continue to be reachable for this work via phone, email and/or Seesaw. • Staff will be expected to have at minimum weekly communication with each distance learning family. • In addition to weekly communication, staff will provide a parent education resource at least weekly for distance learning families
Mental Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any required screens would be sent home for parents to complete and return. • The mental health coordinator would call to discuss screening results that indicated follow up might be needed. • Referrals to community resources would be made as needed or requested. • Parents can call the mental health coordinator to discuss concerns, regardless of screening results.
Health Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If a classroom or site is shut down due to exposure to COVID-19 staff will then move to a virtual option to stay connected with the families • Staff will continue to follow up/assist the families in completing, and scheduling appointments to complete requirements • Staff will utilize child plus, seesaw, email and phone calls to stay connected with the families • Thorough documentation will be maintained in child plus • Staff will continue to utilize, and update their case management forms regularly

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff will share with the families weekly education in various health/nutrition topics
Pregnant Moms and Newborn Visits	Enrollment and Health Services will be provided virtually.