



## ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES

March 18, 2020

Dear Childcare Facility Partner,

The Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS) appreciates your collaboration in the response to COVID-19 at your childcare facility.

Who is at Higher Risk for complications?

- Older adults with risk increasing with age.
- People who have serious chronic medical conditions like:
  - Heart disease
  - Diabetes
  - Lung disease

When people are close together, there is an increased risk that they will spread respiratory illnesses like COVID-19 to each other. ADHS recommends that children should be kept at home during this time period, and not watched by individuals that are at higher risk of complications from COVID-19. We recognize that many people need to continue to work, primarily healthcare workers, first responders, and critical infrastructure personnel. If your childcare facility remains open during this time period, ADHS has outlined a series of recommendations in this letter. Childcare services should implement protocols for symptom screening for all individuals entering the establishment, staggered recreational time, prevention of classroom mixing, meals and snacks in separate classrooms where possible, and frequent cleaning and disinfection.

### **Facilities should identify plans and resources.**

- Connect with your **local public health departments** to establish an emergency operations plan. Ensure the plan includes strategies to reduce the spread of a wide variety of infectious diseases (e.g., seasonal influenza). Effective strategies build on everyday facility policies and practices.
- Identify critical job functions and positions, and plan for alternative coverage. Provide additional cross-training staff to ensure coverage in case people get sick and need to stay home.