

# Putting Guidance Into Practice | Child Care Panel discussion

[Early Childhood System's Building Webinar Recording with Panel Discussion \(August 12\)](#)

**Moderator: Amanda Petersen**, Kansas State Department of Education Director of Early Childhood

## Panelists:

- **Terria Ashby**, Bella's Playhouse, Ulysses
- **Tamme Buller**, Reno County Head Start
- **Joanie Burke**, Southeast Kansas Community Action Program (SEK-CAP)
- **Shannon Zaring**, Good Beginnings Child Care, Bonner Springs

## Panel Questions and Answers

What creative solutions have you tried or heard about others trying to tackle challenges in implementing this guidance?

- **Family/Home Child Care**
  - Rotate toys between morning and afternoon with sanitization in between.
  - Plastic sign-in folders that can be sanitized. Sanitizer in each cubby for parents.
  - Utilize outdoor space for pick-up space.
  - Spending as much of the day outdoors as possible. Fresh air!
  - Clipboard to take temperatures first thing in the morning with multiple columns to take multiple temperatures throughout the day to see what they typically run.
  - Shower caddy that has sanitizer and wipes to take outside.
  - Kids have individual water bottles with flip-top caps for the whole time outside.
  - A lot of hand-washing activities – to keep it fun. (songs, sing-along songs, black light germ powder “tag-you’re-it”)
  - To support social distancing, only one drop off at a time.
  - Use hula-hoops for spacing on floor and when walking in a group.
  - Cubby on deck outside of house for children to put their shoes in and coats on. Individual spaces. Nothing comes in the house. Will continue as weather allows. Keep shoe covers, gloves, masks on hand for any outside person who may need to come into the house (Compass Behavioral Health home visitor, repair person, etc.).
- **Center-Based Child Care**
  - Establish zone times for drop offs with assigned times.
  - Use iPad for sign-in, but also for transition time for parents/children to connect.
  - Assigned “Compliance Officer” jobs (two per classroom), to have kids help ensure safety practices (hand washing, masks).
  - Enhanced outdoor play time.
  - Ordered outdoor sinks.
  - Installed hand sanitizer at all entrance doors (at adult height to assist children).
  - Each child has their own supplies/materials with no sharing.
  - Each child has 6 masks that can be laundered when needed.
  - Regular hand washing and sanitizing (after all activities throughout the day). Hand sanitizer on the way to restroom.

- Hand lotion with germicide in it and black light to check for effectiveness of hand washing.
- Toothbrushing?
  - Check with KDHE and their guidance documents for considerations when making decisions based on daily cleaning routines.
  - [KDHE FAQ](#)
  - [Child Care Guidance](#)

How have you engaged with families to support these healthy practices while at home?

- Provided a lot of activities for families to do at home. Included “messy” activities that encourage hand washing after.
- Continue teachable moments we do with families – all start and end with hand washing.
- Establish Social Stories: “What is COVID?”, “Wash Hands”, “Masks”. Shared with families through Zoom and do porch visits.
  - The Kansas Quality Network website has resources and social stories. We are working to add more over the coming weeks! <https://ksqualitynetwork.org/coronavirus/provider-guide/>
  - There are numerous free and printable COVID-related social stories on <http://autismlittlelearners.com>
  - National Center for Pyramid Model Innovations has a social story for masks and one for handwashing as well. [https://challengingbehavior.cbcs.usf.edu/docs/Wearing-Masks\\_Story.pdf](https://challengingbehavior.cbcs.usf.edu/docs/Wearing-Masks_Story.pdf)
  - Families Together – Social Stories to help explain COVID-19 to kids: <https://familiestogetherinc.org/coronavirus-covid-19/#kids>

How have you supported staff and exercised leadership to implement these changes?

- Focusing on adult/teacher/staff mental health as we begin to re-open spaces.
- Established a Zoom group early on to talk with mental health providers regarding COVID-19 concerns. Regular follow ups. Only the mental health professional had access to the chat.
- Asked for staff ideas to share with others about how to take care of yourself (mental health). Recommended lots of walks with own families.
- Frequent check-ins with staff, especially those who have concerns.
- Giving resources
  - It might be helpful to have your teachers complete self-care plans...here is a great link: <https://mivan.org/resources-for-advocate-resilience/>
  - Mental Health resource from KDHE: <https://www.coronavirus.kdheks.gov/DocumentCenter/View/118/Maintaining-Positive-Mental-Health-During-COVID-19-PDF---4-1-20>
- Our daycare facility uses the [Family Wall App](#). this helps us increase communication among staff, and as director I can post inspirational quotes to keep up morale!

## Resources

### The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

- [CDC Coronavirus -COVID-19 \(https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html \)](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html)
- [Schools and Child Care \(https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/index.html\)](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/index.html)
- [Guidance for Child Care Programs that Remain Open \(https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/guidance-for-childcare.html\)](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/guidance-for-childcare.html)
- Keep an eye on the FDA list for safe hand sanitizer to use with children:  
<https://www.fda.gov/drugs/drug-safety-and-availability/fda-updates-hand-sanitizers-consumers-should-not-use#products>

### The Kansas Department of Health and Environment

- [Kansas Department of Health & Environment: Home \(https://www.kdheks.gov/\)](https://www.kdheks.gov/)
- [KDHE COVID-19 Resource Microsite \(https://www.coronavirus.kdheks.gov/\)](https://www.coronavirus.kdheks.gov/)
- [Child Care Licensing Program \(https://www.kdheks.gov/bcclr/index.html\)](https://www.kdheks.gov/bcclr/index.html)

### Kansas State Department of Education

- [Kansas State Department of Education: Home \(https://www.ksde.org/\)](https://www.ksde.org/)
- [Navigating Change: Kansas' Guide to Learning and School Safety Operations \(https://www.ksde.org/Teaching-Learning/Resources/Navigating-Change-Kansas-Guide-to-Learning-and-School-Safety-Operations\)](https://www.ksde.org/Teaching-Learning/Resources/Navigating-Change-Kansas-Guide-to-Learning-and-School-Safety-Operations)

### Caring for Our Children National Health and Safety Performance Standards Guidelines for Early Care and Education Programs

- [Caring for Our Children | National Resource Center \(https://nrckids.org/CFOC\)](https://nrckids.org/CFOC)
- [COVID-19 Questions-CFOC Crosswalk \(https://nrckids.org/files/COVID-19%20Questions-CFOC%20Crosswalk\\_6.4.20%20w%20public%20instructions.pdf\)](https://nrckids.org/files/COVID-19%20Questions-CFOC%20Crosswalk_6.4.20%20w%20public%20instructions.pdf)

### Preparedness and Planning Guide for Child Care Programs

- <https://east.ks.childcareaware.org/child-care-providers/preparedness-and-planning-guidelines>