

Screening - Contact Tracing - Daily Health Checks

- Staff must stay home if they are sick. Likewise, parents/guardians will be advised to keep sick children home.
- Staff and parents should be aware of and continually check for signs and symptoms of COVID-19 in children.
- Staff will undergo a mandatory health screening questionnaire, performed remotely, before they are allowed to enter any of our buildings.
- Alternatives for Children has designated a central point of contact, at each location, responsible for receiving and attesting to having reviewed all daily health questionnaires.
- Alternatives for Children personnel performing screening activities, will be appropriately protected from exposure to potentially infectious individuals seeking to enter the site, as well as trained on CDC, DOH, OCFS, NYSED procedures.
- A child, staff member, parent or visitor who screens positive for or exhibits symptoms of COVID 19, will not be allowed to enter any Alternatives for Children's facility.
- Alternatives For Children will maintain a log of every person, including employees, parents/guardians, children, and any essential visitors who may have close or proximate contact with other individuals at the school. The log will contain contact information, such that all contacts may be identified, traced and notified in the event an employee, parent/guardian, child or visitor is diagnosed with COVID-19.
- The OCFS Child Care Program Tracker form will be used for visitors, vendors, parent/guardian or other individuals entering the building.
- OCFS Form 6040 - each employee/parent and essential visitors/vendors will complete a health care screening one time attestation as required.
- Alternatives For Children will immediately notify the state and local Health Department about the case if results are positive for COVID-19 test result by an employee or child at the school.
- In the case of an employee, parent/guardian, or child testing positive, Alternatives For Children will cooperate with the local Health Department by providing the department with the OCFS Child Care Tracker Form and the student and employee attendance information needed for contact tracing. Further, all individuals who entered the site going back to 48 hours before the employee, parent/guardian, or child first began COVID-19 symptoms or tested positive, whichever is earlier will be notified. Confidentiality will be maintained as required by federal and state law and regulations.
- Individuals who are alerted that they have come in close contact or approximate contact with a person with COVID-19, and have been alerted via tracing, tracking or another mechanism, are required to contact the Alternatives for Children HR Department and the school nurse at the site location.
- Children who are being sent home because of a positive screen (i.e. onset of COVID-19 symptoms), must be immediately separated from other children and supervised until their parent/guardian or emergency contact can retrieve them. An "isolation" area has been identified at each site.

Central Point of Contact

Please, it is important that you call Alternatives For Children if you are experiencing any symptoms of, or are suspected of having, or tested positive for COVID-19.

Aquebogue - 631-722-2170
Dix Hills - 631-271-0777
East Setauket - 631-331-6400
Southampton - 631-283-3272

**The full
Alternatives For Children Reopening Plans
2020-2021**

Can be found on our website

<http://www.alternativesforchildren.org/news-alternatives-for-children.html>

Questions? Feedback

Email us at
hello.alternativesforchildren@gmail.com

Return to School after Illness

Alternatives for Children will follow CDC guidance for allowing a student or staff member to return to school after exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19. If a person is not diagnosed by a healthcare provider (physician, nurse practitioner, or physician assistant) with COVID-19 they can return to school:

- Once there is no fever, without the use of fever reducing medicines, and they have felt well for 24 hours.
- If they have been diagnosed with another condition and has a healthcare provider written note stating they are clear to return to school.

If a person is diagnosed with COVID-19 by a healthcare provider based on a test or their symptoms or does not get a COVID-19 test but has had symptoms, they should not be at school and should stay at home until:

- It has been at least ten days since the individual first had symptoms.
- It has been at least three days since the individual has had a fever (without using fever reducing medicine).
- It has been at least three days since the individual's symptoms improved, including cough and shortness of breath.
- Alternatives for Children is directed to refer to DOH's "Interim Guidance for Public & Private Employees Returning to Work Following COVID-19 Infection or Exposure" regarding protocols and policies for faculty and staff seeking to return to work after a suspected or confirmed case of COVID-19 or after the staff member has close or proximate contact with a person with COVID-19.
- Alternatives for Children will require that children/staff who were exposed to the COVID19 virus complete quarantine along with not developing symptoms – before returning to in-person instruction.

In the event that a parent/guardian of a child in our program must be isolated because they themselves have tested for, or have exhibited symptoms of COVID-19, Alternatives for Children will advise the parent/guardian that they cannot enter the site for any reason, including picking up their child.

If the parent/guardian – who is a member of the same household as the child, is exhibiting signs of COVID-19 or has been tested and is positive for the virus, Alternatives for Children will utilize an alternate parent/guardian or emergency contact authorized by the parent, to come and pick up the child. As a close contact, the child must not return to the program for the duration of the quarantine, as determined by the health care provider.

If the child or household member becomes symptomatic for COVID-19 and/or tests positive for COVID-19, the child must quarantine and may not return or attend the program until after the quarantine is complete; with required documentation from local DOH or health care provider.

Physical Distancing & Social Distancing

- Alternatives for Children will recommend that their employees maintain a distance of at least six feet from other employees at all times, unless the safety or the core activity requires a shorter distance. (i.e. jointly caring for a child or responding to the needs of a child). Employees must wear acceptable face coverings at all times, regardless of physical distancing.
- Alternatives for Children will ensure that employee and children groupings are as static as possible by having the same group of children stay with the same staff whenever possible. Group size will be limited to SED/OCFS ratios. The restriction on group size (children) does not apply to employees/staff.
- Alternatives for Children will limit the group size of children, excluding employee/staff, in a specific area (i.e. classroom) at any given time.
- Alternatives for Children will ensure that different stable groups of children have no or minimal contact with another group or utilize common spaces at the same time, to the greatest extent possible.
- Alternatives for Children will limit the number of therapists assigned to a classroom to minimize the number of employees entering or exiting each classroom.
- Alternatives for Children has put in place measures to reduce bi-directional foot traffic using tape or signs with arrows in hallways, or spaces, and posted signage and distance markers denoting spaces of six feet in all commonly used areas and any areas where lines are normally formed or staff may congregate.
- Alternatives for Children will limit the number of entrances to both manage the flow of people into the facility and ensure that people can maintain six feet of social distancing.

Transportation - Busing - Drop Off - Pick Up of Students

- The municipalities of both Suffolk and Nassau Counties provide **"transportation" as a related service** in your child's IEP. If you **choose to drive your child**, instead of taking the bus, you must **contact your school district CPSE chair** and inform them that you will be driving your child. Busing will be removed from your child's IEP and you will be eligible for the **"Parent Mileage Reimbursement Program"** through Suffolk/Nassau County Department of Health.
- Detailed plans for Drop off - Pick Up of Students for each location are available in the Parent Pack.
- Parents will be contacted by the bus company prior to the commencement of "in-person" transportation regarding bus protocols, as well as routing information.

Caring for our Children, Families & Staff

Alternatives For Children is first and foremost a place for children. Though new policies and safety measures must be created in the midst of a global crisis, it is our intention to continue to provide an environment that is enjoyable and safe for our children. Creative strategies will be utilized in order to make these new routines feel like fun and games for our students.

Alternatives for Children is dedicated to the ongoing mental health care of both our students and staff. We are committed to creating a safe, predictable environment for our children. Safety and predictability can mitigate the harmful effects of a traumatic experience and can help to restore a sense of stability. Previous routines will be maintained as much as possible, while remaining in compliance with new NYSED, OCFS and DOH regulations. New routines will be adhered to as consistently as is possible so that our children can learn new routines that will allow them to feel they are in a predictable environment. Efforts will be made to proactively answer the questions that are likely to be in the minds of our students.

Support of Social Emotional Learning

In terms of explaining the virus and ongoing situation to the children, social stories will be used in the classroom explaining this new language as well as the new routines. Staff will use simple explanations for the children; left to their own imaginations and fears, children may struggle to make sense of the complex time we are living in. A social story is a developmentally appropriate medium in which to help our children make sense of what is happening. The reading and discussion of social stories will allow for a space for children to ask questions and voice concerns about the virus. The social stories also provide a space to empower children to understand that they are keeping themselves and their friends safe.

Age-appropriate mindfulness activities will be implemented on a daily basis in effort to help our children learn new relaxation and self-regulation skills.

Alternatives For Children will continue push-in social skills groups in our classrooms. Skills to teach functional communication and appropriate play will be taught.

The health & safety of our children, families & staff is our #1 concern

It is anticipated that some of our children will feel uncomfortable being back in a classroom. Some of their previous experiences will now feel new, and there will undoubtedly be an adjustment period. Our teachers and therapists will acknowledge this, both in their words and in the social stories reviewed with the children.

Social, Emotional and Academic Needs

Alternatives for Children will assess returning students to determine the supports and individualized learning activities that are most effective in addressing their social, emotional and academic needs.

Teachers, therapists and support staff will collaborate and create learning activities that address the whole child. Professional Development on emotional literacy will be provided so that staff may engage students in role playing games that foster positive social skills as they readjust to in-person instruction.

Mental Health Supports

Alternatives For Children will maintain on our website national, and local agencies in both Suffolk and Nassau Counties, where families can find information on accessing mental health and physical well-being resources.

If at anytime you feel that you or your child are not safe because of any of these concerns, please reach out to your child's teacher and they can put you in touch with one of the members of our Psychology/Social Work Department.

Food Insecurity Inadequate Shelter Financial Limitations Domestic Violence

Alternatives For Children will maintain on our website local agencies in both Suffolk and Nassau Counties, where families can find information on accessing food pantries and legal/law resources.

If at anytime you feel that you are struggling with any of these issues, please reach out to your child's teacher and they can put you in touch with one of the members of our Psychology/Social Work Department.

Caring for Young Children

Hand Hygiene

Recognizing that maintaining social distancing is not always possible when caring for young children, Alternatives For Children has implemented precautionary measures for our employees/staff who are taking care of young children during the COVID-19 outbreak, including:

- Required frequent and thorough hand hygiene for both staff and children.
- For handwashing: soap, running warm water, and disposable paper towels are available.
- For hand sanitizing for adults: an alcohol-based hand sanitizer containing at least 60% alcohol for areas where handwashing facilities may not be available or practical has been made available. Hand sanitizer stations are available throughout common areas on site. They are placed in heavily trafficked locations, such as at entrances, exits, and security/reception desks.
- Signage near hand sanitizer stations indicates that visibly soiled hands should be washed with soap and water; hand sanitizer is not effective on visibly soiled hands.
- Alternatives For Children has placed labelled receptacles around the facility for disposal of soiled items, including PPE.

Staff will work with children to teach and reinforce respiratory hygiene.

- **Cough or sneeze into your elbow or use a tissue to cover your cough or sneeze.**
- **Use the nearest waste receptacle to dispose of the tissue after use.**
- **Perform hand washing with soap and water after having contact with respiratory secretions and contaminated objects/materials.**

STAFF Hand Washing Must Occur:

- At the beginning of each day.
- Before and after the administration of medications.
- When they are dirty.
- After toileting or assisting children with toileting.
- After changing a diaper.
- Before and after food handling or eating.
- After contact with any bodily secretion or fluid.
- After coming in from outdoors.

GLOVES ARE NOT A SUBSTITUTE FOR HAND WASHING

Staff must ensure that children thoroughly wash their hands or assist children with thoroughly washing their hands with soap and running water:

- When children arrive at the beginning of each day.
- When they are dirty.
- After toileting.
- Before and after food handling or eating.
- After contact with any bodily secretion or fluid.
- After coming in from outdoors.

The use of hand sanitizers on children under the age of 2 years old is prohibited.

Acceptable Face Coverings

Face coverings are a critical preventive measure and are most essential in times when social distancing is difficult.

- Acceptable face coverings will be worn by all staff whenever they are within six feet of students or other staff.
- Acceptable face coverings will be worn by staff in common areas and when traveling around the building.
- Acceptable face coverings will be worn by staff at all times in classrooms and therapy areas.

All staff have been trained on what an acceptable face covering is, how to wear it, how to put it on, how to take it off, how to launder and dry.

Speech Therapists will wear a Clear Panel Face Mask and a Face Shield provide an added layer of protection for both therapist and students during the speech session.

Alternatives For Children will provide the appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) for staff (school nurses) who administer nebulizer treatments and peak flow meters to students with asthma. PPE for use when administering nebulizer treatments or peak flow meters to students with asthma consists of gloves, N95 medical or surgical facemask and eye protection. School staff has been trained on when to use PPE, what PPE is necessary, where this PPE is stored, how to properly don (put on), use, and doff (take off) PPE, and how to properly dispose of used PPE.

Children should have multiple changes of clothes on hand. Contaminated clothes will be placed in a plastic bag and sent home for laundering.

Alternatives For Children will encourage students to wear acceptable face coverings

Face coverings should not be used by children under the age of 2

Face Coverings are not required for anyone who is unable to medically tolerate such covering, including students where such covering would impair their health or mental health.

Or where such covering would present a challenge, distraction, or obstruction to education services and instruction.

Parents/Guardians will be encouraged to send their child with a face covering (mask), clearly labeled with their name.

Parents/Guardians are reminded that face coverings should be washed daily and to launder appropriately.

Staff will work with children through social stories and other means on wearing face coverings to the extent that is practicable.

Children will have the opportunity to have face covering (mask) breaks during "center" times.

Cleansing, Sanitizing and Disinfecting

Alternatives For Children has put in place **cleaning/sanitizing/disinfecting procedures and protocols** at each of our locations, in compliance with guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), NYS Department of Health (DOH), New York State Education Department (NYSED), Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS), and the local municipalities of **Suffolk and Nassau Counties**.

Alternatives For Children has put in place reasonable measures to **limit the sharing of objects**, such as electronic equipment, arts and craft materials, touchscreens, as well as the touching of shared surfaces.

Cleaning, sanitizing, and disinfecting frequently touched surfaces within the school will occur **at least daily** (e.g., equipment) and **shared objects (e.g., games, art supplies) between uses**.

Alternatives For Children has ensured that staff have been trained on the **safe and correct application of disinfectants registered** by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), and that **these products are kept away from children**.

OCFS regulations require that Alternatives For Children maintain daily logs that include the date, time, and scope of cleaning and disinfection of each of the below named areas and the high contact areas that are contained in those areas.

Classrooms	Therapy Areas
Playroom/Gym	Napping Areas
Common Areas	High Risk Areas
Bathrooms	Outdoor Areas

Floors	Furnishings
Sink/faucets	Toys
Counter tops	Strollers
Table/chairs	Sign in Areas
Door handles	Outdoor Play Equipment
Equipment	Hand Sanitizer Dispensers
Light switches	

At this time, toys from home, comfort items, or “lovies” may not be sent to school with your child. Any items sent to school will be put in your child’s backpack. Thank you for your cooperation.

Cleansing, Sanitizing and Disinfecting Solutions

Liquid Hand Soap - Used for hand hygiene.

Liquid Hand Sanitizer - An alcohol-based hand sanitizer containing at least 60% alcohol for areas where handwashing facilities may not be available is available in common and heavily trafficked areas at each of our facilities. Hand sanitizer is kept out of the reach of children. *The use of hand sanitizers on children under the age of 2 years old is prohibited*

All Purpose 1st Step Cleaner - 1 teaspoon soap to 1 quart of water. Used for cleaning before Sanitizing or Disinfecting.

Surface Spray for Food Contact areas and materials/areas Contaminated with Bodily Fluids - 1 tablespoon bleach to 1 quart of water. Used after All Purpose 1st Step Cleaner for diapering surfaces, blood/intestinal fluid covered surfaces with 2 minutes of contact time.

70% Isopropyl Alcohol - Used for staff to disinfect their personal desktop work area regularly. 70% Isopropyl Alcohol must not be used on children’s tables or in areas used by children. 70% Isopropyl Alcohol is flammable and consequently must be stored in a cool, well-ventilated area.

Glissen Chemical Nu-Foamicide - Used for playground equipment. Glissen Chemical Nu-Foamicide is an Industrial Commercial Grade disinfectant used in Daycare Centers and Schools. Nu-Foamicide is EPA registered and is listed to be used against human coronavirus.

PDI Super Sani-Cloth Surface Disinfectant Germicidal Wipes - Used for equipment in the PT OT Gym areas. PDI Super Sani-Cloth wipes contain 55% isopropyl alcohol and are effective against 30 microorganisms in 2 minutes including the following MDROs, bloodborne pathogens, and viruses. EPA-registered intermediate level disinfectant meeting CDC, OSHA, and CMS Tag F441 guidelines.

Sani-Prime Germicidal Spray - Used to sanitize and disinfect the mats in the PT OT Gym areas. A blend of quaternary ammonium, isopropyl alcohol (IPA), and ethanol; 1-minute disinfectant. Sani-Prime Germicidal Spray EPA registered for use against COVID-19; Meets CDC, OSHA and infection control guidelines.

Individual Cubbies

Each child will have their own cubby in the classroom where their coat (or any other garment), backpack, lunchbox, extra clothing, diapers, and any other personal specialized items will be placed.



Personalized Bin - Arts and Crafts Materials

Alternatives For Children will supply each child with a personalized bin containing their own arts & crafts materials, i.e., crayons. **Individually labeled containers will be cleaned and disinfected regularly.**



Ventilation, HVAC and Water Systems

Alternatives for Children has reviewed all of its facilities to ensure the safety of the children and staff. Health and safety measures have been implemented in accordance with requirements and guidance documents aimed at preventing the spread of the COVID-19 infection.

Alternatives for Children has reviewed all ventilation systems, including HVAC and window units at each of its facilities.

All windows will be opened each morning to increase airflow. Windows will be closed upon arrival of the children for safety reasons.

All air conditioning window units have been individually cleaned and disinfected at the Southampton and Dix Hills sites, where such units are utilized .

Air Filter maintenance has been increased for those sites with HVAC systems; filters will be changed on a more frequent basis. Wherever feasible, MERV-13 air filters have been purchased and installed. These filters are designed to filter out very small particles in the air.

Water Filtration Systems

Alternatives for Children has installed water filtration systems using a Waterlogic WL2 Tower. The WL2 Firewall uses unique Firewall UVC technology at the point of dispense to eliminate up to 99.99% of bacteria, delivering the purest water possible.

During the COVID-19 Pandemic many children may have missed their annual physical with their pediatrician.

Is your child up-to-date on their immunizations?

PLEASE MAKE SURE TO KEEP YOUR EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION UP TO DATE

Alternatives for Children has a designated **site safety monitor** for each location whose responsibilities include continuous compliance with all aspects of the site safety plan.

Alternatives for Children has designated a **central point of contact** responsible for receiving and attesting to having reviewed all daily health questionnaires.

Know the Symptoms of COVID-19

Fever or Chills

Cough

Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing

Fatigue

Muscle or Body aches

Headache

New loss of taste or smell

Sore throat

Congestion or Runny Nose

Nausea or vomiting

Diarrhea

COVID-19 Testing Information

The FDA has approved New York State to authorize the state's 28 public and private labs to begin manual, semi-automated and automated testing for novel coronavirus, or COVID-19.

The approval allows the state to dramatically increase testing capacity to thousands of tests per day. The approval also extends to the Roche high-volume platform for testing.

Testing is free to all eligible New Yorkers as ordered by a health care provider or by calling the NYS COVID-19 hotline at 1-888-364-3065.

If you go to a test site run by New York State, there is never any charge for your test.

If you go to a test site operated by local governments, private companies including pharmacies and medical practices or not-for-profit organizations, you are advised to check with the testing site and your insurer in advance of being tested to confirm you will not be responsible for any fees associated with your test.

Your local health department is your community contact for COVID-19 concerns.

Suffolk County Department of Health

Questions related to Coronavirus please call 311 anytime
Phone 631-854-0000
Public Health Hotline 631-787-2200
Emergencies after 5:00 pm & weekends 631-852-4820

Nassau County Department of Health

Coronavirus Hotline 888-364-3065
Phone 516-227-9697
After Hours and Weekends Emergencies (516-742-6154)

Can I Be Tested?

New York State has aggressively expanded COVID-19 diagnostic testing capacity. Beginning July 1st, testing is available to all New Yorkers statewide.

Interested in being tested for COVID-19? Use this screening tool to share your symptoms and pre-register for testing

CLICK HERE <https://covid19screening.health.ny.gov/>

CLICK HERE <https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/find-test-site-near-you>

NYS Corona Virus Health webpage

<https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/covid-19-testing#:~:text=Testing%20is%20free%20to%20all,any%20charge%20for%20your%20test.>

Find a Test Site Near You

<https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/find-test-site-near-you>