

A guide to the gradual, controlled reopening of daycare in Denmark, from the Danish Health Ministry (Sundhedsstyrelsen)

Specific Measures

Below are a number of specific measures for reopening your setting. In general, it is up to management to ensure the following:

Put together hygiene and safe conduct instructions (using the starting point in section 5.1 below)

That employees and children understand how to wash their hands with water and liquid soap when possible, or otherwise hand sanitiser.

Explain when to do hand washing, what good cough etiquette is, that they need to avoid close contact and other hygiene recommendations.

Good hand washing routines among staff and children.

That information and posters on infectious measures from the National Board of Health are displayed in important places, for example at the entrance and other relevant places where children, parents and employees will be..

Be prepared for dealing with staff and children with symptoms that could be COVID-19 (using the starting point in 2 below).

That employees and parents are aware of the stricter requirements for dealing with illness during this time.

That anyone with close contact with any ill person receives information on precautionary measures in the event of illness (this can be using the National Board of Health's material).

Managing staff at special risk (elderly over 65, people with chronic illness or immune deficiency and pregnant women).

5.1. Specific measures to prevent the spread of infection

Hand hygiene

- Wash hands when they are visibly soiled.
- Employees, children and accompanying adults, must wash hands with water and liquid soap on arrival at the setting.
- Use only disposable materials such as nappies, washcloths, towels, aprons, handkerchiefs and paper towels.



- Employees must wash their hands and then use hand sanitiser by diaper change or helping children blow their nose.
- Employees wash hands with water and liquid soap or use hand spray if they move from one room to another or are forced to be in contact or close physical contact with children from another room than their own.
- Children and staff must wash their hands after going to the toilet, before eating, after blowing their nose, after coughing or sneezing in their hands or a disposable handkerchief, and when they come in from outside. Employees should help the children wash their hands.
- Employees and children who are not near water and liquid soap, must use alcohol wipes or skin-friendly wet wipes, for example if they are on trips. If your hands are visibly clean, hand sanitiser can be used. Wash hands with water and liquid soap as soon as possible after that.

The drop-off and pick-up of children

- You must ensure that parents or accompanying adults do not gather at the entrances to the daycare. This can be done by arranging drop-off times at intervals.
- If possible, take the children outside as much as you can.
- Adults should avoid physical contact, such as close and prolonged contact, handshakes, hugs, etc., with people they do not live in a home with.

Cleaning

- Toilets must be cleaned with ordinary detergents at least twice daily. Pots are used and cleaned as usual after use.
- Tables and contact points must be cleaned at least twice daily.
- Toys, both inside and outside, must be washed at least twice daily. In daycare settings looking after children between 0-2 years, this can be, for example, when the children sleep, eat and or have left home. In daycare settings looking after children between 3-5 years, this can be when they eat and when they go home. Do this after a concrete assessment of use during the day.
- No toys can be brought from home.
- Toys that cannot be cleaned according to the instructions must be packed away until after the CO-VID-19 epidemic is over.
- Bedding must be personal to the individual child and remain in the child's stroller or bed. Personal bedding should be washed at 80 °C twice weekly or as needed. If the bedding is not personal, wash it daily at 80 °C.
- Tablets should be wiped several times daily and between use. If possible, avoid children sharing tablets or ensure that only a few children share the same tablet. Use alcohol wipes for cleaning. Wash hands before and after use.



- Contact points should be cleaned at least twice daily, including taps, toilet flushes, toilet seats, table surfaces, door handles, refrigerator door handles, handrails, armrests, light switches, washer and dryer etc.
- Rubbish bins must be emptied before they are full and at least once daily.

The indoors environment

- Larger assemblies should be avoided, such as any morning singing.
- It is recommended that time is divided between rooms in relation to children's arrival, lunch and breaks, so that less children are gathered together.
- Children should, as much as possible, stay in the same room or in the same groups and with the same educational staff. They should not play with children in other rooms. It is recommended that the children are divided into groups (e.g five children at play outside and two to three children at play inside).
- The playground can be divided so that the children only play with the same children from their regular, smaller groups of, for example, five children.
- As much as possible, meetings between employees should be done outdoors, via video or telephone or at a good distance from each other.
- Easy access to good hand hygiene with water, liquid soap and disposable towels for staff must be ensured. If there is no access to hand hygiene in staff rooms, dispensers for hand disinfection can be set up, in accordance with current agreements with fire supervision, safety with regards to children, etc.

Social distancing

- Physical contact such as handshakes and hugs should be avoided between educational staff.
- Activities must be planned so that they take place in smaller groups of the same children.
- Activities should, whenever possible, be planned to take place outside. Activities can take place inside when outdoor activities are not possible, e.g. due to the weather.
- Play in smaller groups should only be within the same room or group of children.
- If the children are seated at tables, they should be placed so that there are two meters in between them.
- A free floor area of 6 m² per room per child is recommended for children 0-2, and 4m² for children 3-5. This is a doubling of the normal recommendations.



Food and canteens

- Wash their hands thoroughly before and after, cooking and eating.
- Pay particular attention to hygiene when preparing food.
- Sit well apart when eating
- Washing of cutlery and plates should be done in a dishwasher immediately after use. Alternatively, one-time service can be used.
- Food should not be shared.
- All food must be portioned for each child or staff member. There must be no buffet.

Transport, for example to forest nurseries

- Transport for the day offer must be arranged so that the buses run at half occupancy. This means that the children are placed so that they have one double seat per child. This may mean that the transport must take place in more buses than usual.
- Public transport should be avoided in case of trips away from the daycare.

