
HEALTH DEPARTMENT
NEWS RELEASE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Kent County Health Officer Issues Public Health Order for Childcare Facilities
Screening and Limitations Placed on Individuals Working At or Visiting Childcare Facilities

GRAND RAPIDS, MI (March 22, 2020) – Kent County Health Officer Dr. Adam London signed a Public Health Order to mitigate the spread of the COVID-19 virus. As required by this Order, any individual providing childcare services for compensation shall develop and implement a daily screening program for all staff, children, parents entering the facility, and other visitors entering the facility.

For the purposes of this Order, the screening criteria must include the following:

- a. symptoms of a respiratory infection, such as fever of 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit or greater, severe cough and/or shortness of breath unrelated to a chronic condition, and;
- b. procedures must be in place to take the temperature of all covered individuals.

Persons demonstrating fever will not be allowed to enter or return into a childcare facility until they have been fever-free for 72 hours without the use of fever-reducing medications, seven days have passed since the onset of severe coughing and/or breathing difficulties, and symptoms have improved. Also, all non-essential visitors are restricted from entering a childcare facility.

“I understand this Order may cause an inconvenience in our childcare facilities,” said Dr. London. “However, we need to take more aggressive mitigation actions to protect the health and safety of our residents in order to stop the community spread of this virus.”

This Order shall be effective immediately and shall remain in effect until rescinded.

The full Order is posted on the Kent County Health Department COVID-19 page on AccessKent.com at <https://www.accesskent.com/Health/coronavirus.htm>.

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KCHD has been in the business of providing health services to Kent County since 1931. The Health Department is home to nearly 260 employees including public health nurses, sanitarians, health educators, technicians, public health administrators, and specialized staff at the Kent County Animal Shelter. The Health Department operates one main clinic and three satellite clinics located in Kentwood, Rockford, and Grand Rapids. To learn more about KCHD services, visit www.accesskent.com/health.

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