

# Out-of-Home Care Protocols During COVID-19

*If family-based care is not an option, health and safety guidelines should be followed to protect the child and other residents currently living in out-of-home care facilities.*

## Belongings

Allow children to bring and take their belongings. Sanitize them upon entry to the facility. Do not separate them from these belongings.

Children should be provided with their own set of basic materials, including: soap, towel, toothbrush/toothpaste, shampoo, and dining kit with glasses, plates, and silverware.

## Focus on what kids can do to keep safe

Help kids feel empowered by teaching them what they can do to keep safe. Show them how to wash their hands or how to sneeze properly.

## Manage your own anxiety

If you notice you feel anxious, take time to calm down before trying to have a conversation with the child or to answer questions.

## Screening

Children should be frequently screened for COVID-19 symptoms, including a fever check. Upon arrival, inquire if there are any medical conditions that may put the child more at risk.

## Stick to Routine

Keep children's days structured. Create and stick to schedules for mealtime, study and play. Children should wash their hands frequently for 20 seconds. Keep lotion by the sink to prevent dry hands. For younger children, create a handwashing game or song to support diligent hygiene through fun.

## Maintenance

Reduce activity and increase cleaning in communal living areas. Create space between beds and increase ventilation

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