



*Sedgwick County...
working for you*

Health Department

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Health Director

Sedgwick County has been contacted by child care facilities and parents with questions about how the County approaches COVID-19 close contacts within child care facilities. Sedgwick County does not have any orders or mandates in place that require a specific approach by child care facilities. Instead, Sedgwick County suggests that child care facilities follow the best practices to reduce the spread of COVID-19 within both child care facilities and the general community. These best practices have been developed by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment and links to those documents are included below.

[Interim Guidance for Child Care Facilities Licensed by KDHE \(kdheks.gov\)](https://www.kdheks.gov)

[FAQs-for-Child-Care-Facilities-Licensed-by-KDHE-08182021 \(kdheks.gov\)](#)

It is the responsibility of the Sedgwick County Health Department (SCHD) to monitor the incidence of communicable diseases and attempt to limit or eliminate the spread of those communicable diseases. As the SCHD becomes aware of a positive test result through the disease investigation process, SCHD staff may identify individuals that meet the definition of being a close contact. If a childcare facility was identified as having a case through that process, SCHD staff would work with that facility and describe the recommended period of quarantine for those close contacts associated with the facility. That recommendation may or may not include an entire classroom of children, as it would depend upon the circumstances. The focus of the SCHD is on the individuals that test positive, and their close contacts, not on the operation of a business or facility.

Sedgwick County has been asked about what type of liability considerations may apply to child care facilities. Like all businesses, child care facilities must make business determinations about how to conduct their operations during this pandemic. Licensed child care facilities are subject to K.S.A. 65-122 (link: [65-122 \(ksrevisor.org\)](#)), which imposes certain duties upon such facilities with respect to infectious and contagious diseases. Sedgwick County is not able to provide legal advice to businesses. Instead, as part of the aforementioned business decision process, Sedgwick County would suggest that child care facilities consult with their own legal counsel to get their professional opinion on these matters.