

March 20, 2020

GFPS/HANDS Emergency Childcare Operations:

Across the United States communities have been asked to participate with mitigating measures to help slow the spread of COVID-19. These measures include closing schools and local businesses and encouraging individuals to stay home to the extent possible. Our community is still in need of healthcare workers, first responders and other essential employees to help serve at this time. In order to assist these groups in their ability to report for duty, Great Falls Public Schools has set up emergency childcare for these essential employees.

We would like to remind the community that participating with mitigating measures and staying home is preferred at this time. These childcare centers are to be seen as an emergency option as we all work together to protect our community.

Great Falls Public Schools is committed to following guidance from the CDC and local health officials to try to keep our childcare centers a safe place for children who need these services. Some of these safety measures include:

- **Asking that children or volunteers who are sick stay home.**
- **Sending home any child or volunteer with a fever (temperature >100 F), cough, shortness of breath, or other upper respiratory symptoms.**
- **Attempting to keep our group sizes to 10 individuals and under.**
- **Practicing and monitoring frequent hand hygiene.**
- **Disinfecting hard surfaces and frequently touched areas often.**

The status of COVID-19 and our community's recommended mitigation measures is constantly evolving. At this point there is no evidence of community spread within Cascade County. If our health department notifies us of a change in this status then our childcare program policies and procedures may change.

For questions about the GFPS/HANDS emergency Childcare, please call Carol at 268-6779 or 899-5728.