

86th Force Support Squadron
Child and Youth Program (CYP) Operations
As of: 9 June 2020

DEFINITIONS:

Current Customers – Children enrolled in an 86th Force Support Squadron CYP as of 13 March 2020 who have not submitted a notice of termination.

PHASED PLAN:

Air Force Child Development Centers (CDCs) will begin reopening 15 June in a phased approach that will begin with single active-duty military and CYP staff. Army CDCs in the local area are also opening on 15 June with a similar phased approach. The reopening plan will ensure the health and well-being of the staff and children as the facilities implement mandatory hygiene requirements and make plans to gradually accept more current customers.

Hours will be reduced to 0730 – 1730 due to strict COVID-19 hygiene requirements and restrictions, requiring more staff than normal operations to promote safety and health of staff and customers. Reduced hours increase the availability of staff.

The following is a brief summary of the phases and timeline:

15 June: Limited CYP operations resume at Ramstein and Vogelweh

- Includes Ramstein CDC, Vogelweh CDC, Ramstein School Age Care (SAC), Vogelweh SAC (includes Kapaun customers), and Family Child Care (FCC) homes at provider's discretion
- Phases apply **only** to current customers as defined above until Phase IV is reached*:
 - **Phase I:** Provide childcare for single active duty military and CYP staff.
 - **Phase II**:** Expand to include dual military and single/dual DoD civilian customers based on original start date until filled to COVID-19 capacity.
 - Phase II is tentatively scheduled for 29 June. However, COVID-19 restrictions such as facility spacing and other limitations such as staffing may significantly impact operational capacity.
 - **Phase III:** Expand to include all remaining current customers. Date TBD.
 - **Phase IV:** Begin enrolling new customers. Date TBD.
 - **Phase V:** Reopen Youth Centers, open rec, sports, teen centers, and instructional programs; all programs resume normal operations. Date TBD.

Note:

* Phases may be combined as COVID-19 restrictions allow.

Exclusions from Care:

- Children with pre-existing conditions, such as asthma, are excluded from care due to high-risk. Families who are not eligible for care due to high-risk status will be contacted via telephone.
- Staff at high-risk are excluded from the work environment, as well.

DROP-OFF/CARE PROCEDURES:

- Parents are responsible for taking children's temp daily prior to drop-off. Children experiencing an elevated temperature (100.4F or above) will not be accepted for care.
- CDC drop-off and pick-up is in the lobby. Face coverings are required for adults. Entry is limited by space available; numbers allowed in program at one time will vary at different centers.
- SAP drop-off and pick-up is curbside; specific process is program dependent
- Health assessment screening conducted at drop-off prior to parent leaving
- SAC walking contracts suspended; no child sign-in/sign-out regardless of age
- CDC staff wear face shield and/or face covering; no shield/face covering requirement for CDC children
- SAC staff wear face shield and/or face covering; children 6 years old or older wear face covering
 - o Parents must provide 3-5 face coverings daily
- SAC children are in self-contained room with dedicated bathrooms; remain in room daily with exception of outdoor activities
- Records will be maintained of all adults and children in each classroom each day
- Custodial support will be increased – SAC three times daily/CDC five times daily
- Nightly disinfecting of rooms, furnishings, cloth masks, play items and high-touch areas (accomplished by CYP staff)
- Meals and snacks are pre-plated and served to children
- Classroom size is restricted to no more than 10 children or AF ratio group size, whichever is smaller. Note: classrooms size will be increased to 15 or AF ratio group size in Phase II

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: Why can't single civilians be included in Phase I like single military?

A: The phases for reopening Child and Youth Services are in line with the current wait-list priorities as established by the Office of the Secretary of Defense. Phase I currently consists of 163 children, which is the most we could include in the first phase. This approach is necessary to gradually resume childcare services because the pandemic requires many new procedures to protect the health of children, staff, and their families.

Q: Why the reduced hours?

A: COVID-19 requirements are labor intensive due to group size restrictions, self-contained classrooms, drop-off/pick-up procedures, and more extensive and frequent sanitizing/disinfecting requirements. Reducing hours, while still offering 10 hours a day, allows the programs to maximize their capacity while also ensuring we meet mandatory health and safety requirements.

Q: Are there exceptions to the phases?

A: Because the number of childcare spaces is so limited, exceptions will only be considered for dual military families where one member is deployed.

Q: If Phase I children do not show up and you have more capacity, can some Phase II kids move up to Phase I?

A: The phased approach ensures we can meet COVID-19 operational and hygiene requirements, while still easing children and staff back into group based care. Given current estimates of CYP staff and single active-duty military customers, some programs will be at their maximum COVID-19 capacity until restrictions change. We will monitor space availability and make adjustments as we are able.

Q: When do we expect Phase III to begin? What will it take to get to Phase III?

A: Current COVID-19 restrictions impact the CYP's ability to address all phases of the plan. As restrictions are lifted, we will be able to provide services for patrons in other phases.

Q: Why have some other bases already opened or had different categories in their phases?

A: The ability to continue operations or to reopen closed operations is highly dependent on local US military health protection conditions (HPCON), local host nation restrictions that vary from state to state, and our partnership with the Army. With more than 700 children served across the 86 FSS CYP and in an effort to be synchronized with our Army counterparts, we used the OSD priority for care guidelines taking into consideration our COVID-19 capacity limitations.

Q: Are the Army and AF CDCs doing the same thing/following the same phases and procedures?

A: Although there may be differences in execution, the phases for reopening are the same for the Army and the AF.

Q: Why is the opening of Family Child Care optional?

A: FCC providers are a private business licensed through 86 FSS. They do not receive financial compensation from AF sources. They self-determine their business hours and customer base. Six providers will open 15 June. An additional two providers will open 23 June.

Q: Why is Kapaun SAC at Vogelweh SAC?

A: To consolidate resources, the combining of Kapaun and Vogelweh expands their individual COVID-19 capacity, which is driven by mandatory hygiene requirements and staff availability.

Q: Why aren't youth centers opening for open rec, teen, sports, and instructional programs?

A: Due to the COVID-19 requirements, all available CYP staff will be supporting CDCs and SACs providing accountable childcare, which is our main priority at this time.

Q: Are children expected to keep physical distance from one another, and if so, how will the caregiver enforce that?

A: Physical distancing is not feasible in CYP activities. However, CYP is taking several other steps to reduce the risk of exposure for our employees and the families we serve. These include, but are not limited to, such procedures as curbside drop-off in the SAC programs, pre-plating food for dining, all staff/youth 6-years and above wearing a face covering, and more frequent cleaning/sanitation throughout the day.

Q: What does it mean that kids cannot have pre-existing health conditions?

A: Certain health conditions, such as asthma, place children and adults at a higher risk of complications from COVID-19. The Centers for Disease Control, Air Force Child & Youth Division, and Public Health recommend excluding children and adults with high risk conditions from group care. Children with illnesses that would cause them to be more susceptible to the virus will not be allowed care until their medical condition is resolved. However, families of these children will not lose their spot in the CDC/SAC and will not be charged for childcare during that time.

Q: When will kids with pre-existing health conditions be permitted to return?

A: Families will need to contact their PCMs for guidance regarding participation in group care. Children presenting symptoms must be symptom free for 72 hours without the aid of medication.

Q: If a child has a fever before drop-off, will the child need to be fever-free for 24 hours prior to returning to the childcare center, or will the child have to be tested for COVID-19 prior to returning?

A: Per the most current medical guidance, parents should contact the Ramstein COVID hotline for assessment with regard to whether testing is required. Per program guidance, children must be fever free for 72 hours without the aid of medication.

Q: Will staff be tested prior to opening? If not, why not?

A: Staff will be required to complete a medical questionnaire before returning to work. If they are experiencing any symptoms related to COVID-19, they will sent to medical for testing as appropriate.

CONTACT INFORMATION

For follow-up questions, please contact: The Child and Youth Services Flight office at 480-6007.