

# Health Precautions: For Modified Assessment Site Visits



Keeping children and staff safe and healthy is a top priority, and health precautions related to COVID-19 are particularly important. We understand that child care providers, in centers and family childcare homes, have worked diligently during the pandemic to stay informed about changing situations for the health and safety of children and staff. This document explains health precautions for Modified Assessment site visits with a focus on (1) what NCRLAP staff will do, and (2) what you can do.

## What NCRLAP staff will do:

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### The scheduling phone call

NCRLAP staff will ask about your current procedures related to COVID-19. This information will be shared with the assessor and followed during the visit.



### Arrival

Assessors will conduct a self-health screening prior to arriving at your program and expect to go through your screening process as well.



### Personal protective equipment (PPE)

Assessors will wear a mask during the visit. They will also bring additional PPE, including extra masks, hand sanitizer and disinfecting wipes. These items will be stored in a safe place either in their personal bag or in their car and used as needed.



### Maintain 6 feet of distance

Assessors will follow social distancing guidelines. In between assessment activities such as visits to classrooms or outdoor spaces, they will wait in the agreed upon area, to minimize interactions with children and program staff.



### Wash hands

Assessors will wash their hands (or use hand sanitizer that is at least 60% alcohol) frequently, in accordance with Child Care Strong NC Public Health Toolkit Interim Guidance and any other time this is requested by program staff.



### Classroom visits

Assessors will spend 30-45 minutes in each classroom, preferably while the children are not in the room (e.g., outdoors), to take photos and make notes about the space, displays, and materials. We understand that staff and children may be in the room during portions of this time. If this occurs, the assessor will finish gathering the necessary information as quickly as possible while trying to avoid coming in close contact.



### **Playground visit**

Assessors need to visit the outdoor area(s) used by children. Ideally, this will occur while children are not in the outdoor space. However, if this occurs while children are using the space, assessors will maintain a distance of at least 6 feet from children and staff.



### **Interview**

A teacher interview will occur for each assessment. In-person interviews can occur outside, when conditions allow or in a well-ventilated room. Both the assessor and staff member should be masked and sit at least 6 feet apart. If staff members are not comfortable with an in-person interview, a follow up phone call or zoom meeting later that day or the next can be arranged.

## **What you can do:**

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- Discuss any current arrival procedures with the NCRLAP scheduler.
- If an outbreak occurs during your scheduling window, contact NCRLAP.
- Have paperwork prepared ahead of time to allow for a quick process when the assessor arrives. This includes:
  - Classroom and Teacher Information forms
  - Reflective Self-Study worksheets and verification form
- Discuss new health procedures that should be followed with the assessor(s).
- Follow COVID-19 guidelines during interactions.
- Determine the best place for assessors to wait between assessment activities (e.g., assessor's vehicle, empty area within your program, etc.).

Information about other aspects of the Temporary Assessment Process can be found at [ncrlap.org](https://ncrlap.org)

**Need help or have questions?** Please contact us at 1-866-362-7527 or [ncrlap@uncg.edu](mailto:ncrlap@uncg.edu)