

Our response: As of March 9, 2020 there have not been any suspected or confirmed COVID-19 disease cases among unaccompanied alien children in the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) at HHS' Administration for Children and Families. ORR continues to monitor COVID-19 outbreak information and CDC-issued guidelines, and is preparing additional internal guidance to grantees as the situation evolves.

As previously stated, ORR is committed to providing for the safety and well-being of unaccompanied alien children as well as maintaining the health and safety of the communities in which these children live.

ORR follows CDC guidelines for preventing and controlling communicable diseases, including COVID-19.

Consistent with CDC COVID-19 guidelines, unaccompanied children with a travel history to high-risk places undergo a risk assessment to determine appropriate public health actions. Children at risk but without symptoms of respiratory disease will be quarantined and monitored for 14 days. Children at risk who have symptoms of respiratory disease will be isolated and tested in consultation with the local health authority.

Additionally, there are general communicable disease prevention and control measures that are already in place across ORR care provider programs that will aid in a COVID-19 response. These include: routine assessment of travel history when a child arrives to a care provider program; medical screenings and vaccinations within 48 hours of arriving at ORR shelters; ability to isolate or quarantine individuals for the purpose of infectious disease control; hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette education efforts; and established communicable disease reporting to the local health authority.

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