

From: ComSvsCCLicensing
Sent: Tuesday, March 17, 2020 11:38 AM
Subject: Update from Washington County on Child Care Licensing
Importance: High

Child care providers:

With the schools closing, I am sure that leaves some questions about what do we do as child care providers? Of course, this information changes quickly. It seems every time I turn on the television or radio there is new information. In fact, I had one email written and had to rewrite it with new information that was given in a short time frame. We will do our best to keep you informed as we get the information. The governor did release a statement regarding child care programs. I have included it below if you haven't seen it. The statement does say even though social distancing has asked us not to gather in groups of more than 10, it does not mean child cares need to turn away families. As of this time, if you are licensed for 14, you do not have to turn families away. We have asked for further clarification and if this changes, we will let you know. As for closing your day care, your licensing team will support the decision you need to make as a child care provider. If you need to make the decision based on your family's need to close, that is [the](#) right decision for you. I suspect we will get something more from DHS soon and we will share that with you. Many counties also have questions into DHS to get further clarification.

We have been made aware of a training opportunity on Friday sponsored by Early Childhood Investigations Webinars. The link was located on Tom Copeland's website. Here is a link to the web page: <http://tomcopelandblog.com/webinar-bracing-for-covid-19-what-early-childhood-programs-need-to-know-and-consider-now>. Certainly, this can be counted as misc. training.

We are also including a link to an article on how to talk to children about Coronavirus. This is just a resource for you and not mandated to use.

www.health.harvard.edu/blog/how-to-talk-to-children-about-the-coronavirus-2020030719111?utm_source=Children%27s+Health+Fund+General+Interest+Group&utm_campaign=8ca2b74044-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2020_03_09_05_53&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_7170cf1ef7-8ca2b74044-105455437

You will probably receive multiple emails from us in an effort to keep you informed. We do not mean to overwhelm you with emails, but it is the most efficient way to get information to everyone.

Thank you,

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651-430-6476

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Service Center Cottage Grove
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Cottage Grove, MN 55016
Phone: 651-430-4159
Fax: 651-430-4193

Service Center Forest Lake
19955 Forest Road N
Forest Lake, MN 55025
Phone: 651-275-7260
Fax: 651-275-7263

Government Center
14949 62nd St N P.O. Box 30
Stillwater, MN 55082-0030
Phone: 651-430-6455
Fax: 651-430-6605

Service Center Woodbury
2150 Radio Drive
Woodbury, MN 55125
651-275-8650
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March 16 child care provider update from Governor and Lt. Governor

Dear Child Care Providers:

In our letter yesterday, we assured you that we would make communicating with you a priority. The COVID-19 pandemic presents an unprecedented challenge to our state and our situation is changing rapidly.

Today I signed an Executive Order that included closure of Minnesota restaurants and bars for dine-in customers as well as other places of public accommodation and amusement. This Executive Order does not direct child care centers or family child care to close. That said, based on this Executive Order and the new guidelines from the federal government to limit groups to the size of ten, we know that many of you may be considering closing, which is understandable. The health of your staff, families, and children is my top priority and I know it is yours too.

As childcare providers, you play a critical role in our communities persevering through this health crisis. We would appreciate if you continued to care for kids and their families and would like to support you if you decide to remain open. For any providers who choose to stay open during this time, if your staff are ill, and need to be tested for COVID-19, we will prioritize the testing of these staff in our lab. Also, if you do stay open, we encourage you to prioritize serving children of health care and emergency workers. We would ask:

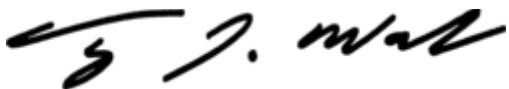
- If a family does not include health care or emergency workers, ask them to keep their children home or use a family, friend or neighbor to provide care in order to make capacity for new families.
- Consider expanding your hours to accommodate longer shifts of emergency workers.
- Let us know if you are choosing to remain open and if so, how many children you could serve [here](#). We are working with community partners to identify families in need.

With this new guidance, the social distancing of children will require new practices. For larger childcare settings this could include separating or staggering multiple smaller groups within your facility. Complete updated guidance can be found [here](#).

During this time of emergency, we need leaders to stand up and help our emergency services continue to operate. Remaining open, even at reduced capacity, can help enable emergency and healthcare workers to do their jobs. Should you decide to close, we would ask that you consider continuing to care for children of health care and other emergency workers in your community.

Again, for those providers who are willing to continue to serve families of health care and emergency workers, we will prioritize you in COVID-19 testing.

We recognize this time is challenging for everyone, and particularly our child care providers. We will work with you as we move forward to try to mitigate the impact this crisis is having on our state. We will get through this together. Thank you for the work you do every day to education our children – and for your leadership during this unprecedented time.



Governor Tim Walz



Lt. Governor Peggy Flanagan