

From: ComSvsCCLicensing
Sent: Wednesday, March 25, 2020 4:43 PM
Subject: Update from Washington County on Child Care Licensing
Importance: High

Dear Washington County Child Care Providers,

First of all, thank you for your continued service to our community and to our children. These are unsettling times. I can only imagine the internal conflict you must be experiencing. You are faced with decisions of needing income to pay bills verses keeping your family's exposure at a minimum. Or faced with the choice of continuing to provide a needed service to other first responders verses needing to care for your own needs and family. I can tell you all of us and first responders are going through similar thought processes. We understand that each of your situations is important and stress inducing. We also know you have to make decisions best for your family. We will support you on those decisions. The Governor did give an update on Monday, March 23 regarding the proposal of legislation for financial support to child care providers who are caring for children at this time. If we get more information, we will pass it along. Otherwise, you can call the child care hotline for information at 1-888-234-1268 (7 a.m.-7 p.m.).

There was also legislation ([Executive Order 20-12](#)) put in place to give us flexibility in licensing requirements. Currently, we are suspending routine licensing visits, such as relicensing and off year visits. DHS will automatically extend your license for three months if your license is set to expire in April or May, 2020. This also means that any licensing documentation and training requirements are also extended three months.

During this time, we understand that certain licensing mandates may not be able to be followed. For example, stores may be out of items such as first aid supplies or you may not be able to get your fire extinguisher serviced. You may run low on cleaning products or other mandates. Don't panic about this. If there are rules you are unable to meet, we will not write a correction order, but will support you. If there are other rules that are not being followed, we will provide you with information and education about it. We want to work together with you during these times. Please reach out to your licensing worker if you are struggling in some area of rule compliance. You will not be penalized for asking for help.

The Washington County Board has closed all buildings to the public until through 4/7/2020. There is a possibility this date will be extended in the future. We will keep you posted. Currently all Fingerprint clinics are cancelled through April 7-8. We have not received specific guidance from

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Service Center Cottage Grove
13000 Ravine Parkway
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
Fax: 651-275-8682

DHS about what this means for our 6 month mandated period. When have more information, we will reschedule some dates than offer times for you to have fingerprints taken.

We are receiving information regarding online training opportunities for child care providers. We will forward all opportunities to you. If they work for your timing, that is great. If not, that is ok too.

Looking for assistance finding food?

- [Hunger Solutions MN: Find Help Map](#): Search for resources near you and learn about important changes to services at local food shelves during COVID-19.
- Prefer to talk to a person? Call the Minnesota Food HelpLine at 1-888-711-1151.
- [Hunger Solutions MN: Meals for Kids](#): A map of locations where families and kids can go to get a free meal during statewide school closures. Find a meal or submit a site to be added to the map.
- [Washington County Food Resource Guide](#): A guide to healthy eating resources in Washington County. Services may be adjusted at this time. Contact the organization for more information regarding their altered hours/services.

Keep looking at our web page dedicated for child care providers and COVID-19 shown below. We will keep posting information there.

Thank you and stay well,

Washington County Licensing

Washington County Community Services
14949 62nd St. N., Stillwater, MN 55082
651-430-8307

www.co.washington.mn.us/childcarelicensing

www.co.washington.mn.us/coronavirusupdates-childcareproviders