

From: ComSvsCCLicensing
Sent: Monday, April 13, 2020 11:00 AM
Subject: Washington County Communication for Child Care Providers
Importance: High

Child Care Providers,

It has been some time since our last update. We hope you are staying well and taking care of yourselves. We continue to express our gratitude for the work you are doing so essential employees are able to continue working. This email is to communicate with you updates and information related to COVID -19 and child care licensing.

Licensing In General

- Washington County is here to support you. You may receive more phone calls lately just to check in and see how you are. We understand these times are difficult and we want to make ourselves available for support.
- All licensing visits have been suspended. A reminder if you have a licensing visit typically occurring this time of year, it will not occur now, but in the future. If you have a license expiring in March, it has already been extended for 90 days. Licenses ending in April and May will have an automatic extension soon.
- We will not be issuing fix-it tickets, correction orders, or fines at this time. If something occurs that would normally warrant one of these items, we will provide you with technical assistance to how to get into compliance.
- There may be times where we have to visit the home in regards to reasons of child safety. If that occurs, we will practice good hygiene and social distancing practices.

New Updates

- As you know, we have had to cancel all of our fingerprint clinics through April, 2020. This has been happening state-wide and DHS understands currently licensed providers are not going to be able to get an enhanced background study at this time. DHS is suspending the roll out of the enhanced background study right now. They are working on a plan for when the peace time state of emergency ends. We will update you when we hear the plans and how Washington County is going to provide opportunities for fingerprinting.
- If you have a new household member or employee, we are able to run a temporary background study that would not include fingerprints.
 - Contact your licenser if you have a new person who needs a background study.

A great place to live, work and play...today and tomorrow

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

- The person can reside or care for children immediately after submitting the background study, you do not have to wait for a clearance letter.
- The cost of the new background studies is \$20; this is the minimal amount allowed to charge.
- When the peace time emergency is over, a new enhanced background study will be needed.
- We, including child care providers, should be following the expert advice of the Minnesota Department of Health and the CDC during this time. If the advice of the MDH or the CDC differs from licensing rule, you should follow MDH or CDC. You should document times when you are following the guidance of the CDC or MDH outside of rule.
- If you have a class A license, you can now care for up to 8 children under school age under your current license. Of those, no more than 3 children may be infants and toddlers; of those, only 2 may be infants. The total number of children has not changed, only the age distribution.
- Immunization records must be obtained within 30 days of a child's first date of attendance.
- Family child care providers are prohibited from using a public outdoor activity areas at this time. This would include public parks or playgrounds. We do encourage you to still play outside. If you have your own equipment that you can sanitize, that is acceptable. If you are using a public large grassy area, that would also be acceptable.
- The American Heart Association has made temporary changes due to COVID-19. Please see the website: https://cpr.heart.org/-/media/cpr-files/resources/covid-19-resources-for-cpr-training/covid19-statement_card-extensions_update-33120.pdf

Communication

- Washington County will continue to provide updated information to you. However, you can also subscribe directly to the state emails for immediate and up-to-date communication. Please see the following ways to subscribe:
 - DHS Licensing for Providers: <https://mn.gov/dhs/general-public/publications-forms-resources/email-subscriptions/>
 - Children's Cabinet: <https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/MNMMB/subscriber/new?preferences=true#tab1>

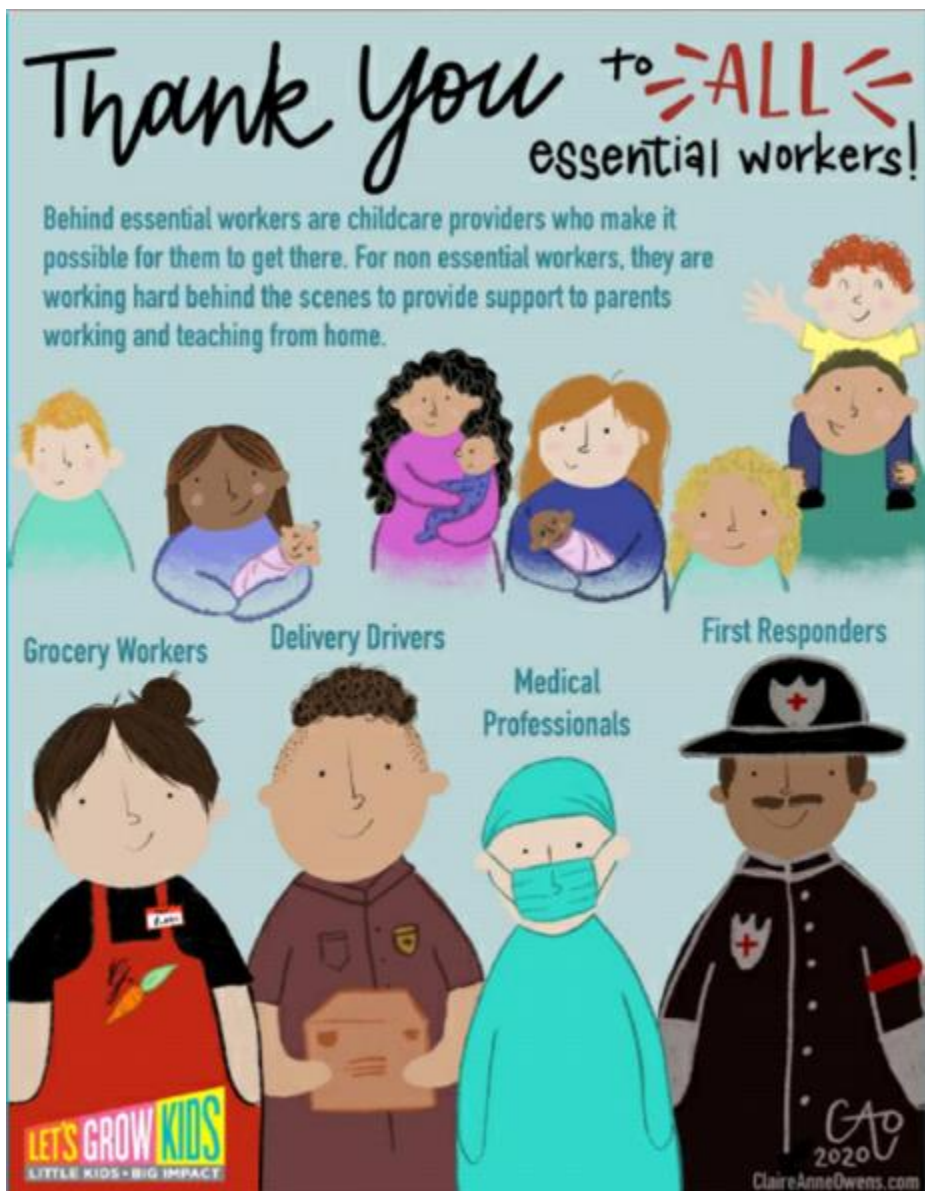
Resources

- If the Minnesota's Children's Cabinet comes into contact with material resources for child care providers, they will distribute it to the counties. If you have a need for resources, including, but not limited to, cleaning supplies or gloves, please contact your licensing worker. We can make requests to emergency management. If you have extra supplies to offer, please call and we can make note if others call needing the items you have.
- Remember Washington County has a web page for all COVID-19 updates: www.co.washington.mn.us/coronavirusupdates-childcareproviders

- Sesame Street has some programming for children during this health emergency. There is great content to show the children.
https://sesamestreetincommunities.org/?utm_source=ssic-providers&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=2020_0330_SSIC_Outreach_Newsletter_S_SICProviders&utm_content=hero
- The Minnesota Department of Health has developed a screening tool for children coming to day care:
https://mn.gov/mmb/assets/20200326%20Childcare%20Screening%20Tool%20Final_tcm1059-424254.pdf

Thank you

In this day and age, there is a lot of talk about essential workers. Child Care Providers have always been and continue to be extremely essential. We are so thankful for the work you do.



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