

From: ComSvsCCLicensing
Sent: Wednesday, June 10, 2020 11:58 AM
Subject: Update for Washington County Child Care Providers

Washington County Child Care Providers,

Hello, we hope this email update finds you well. This has been quite the year. We continue to be appreciative of the work you do every day. We have all had to find a "new normal" including with licensing. Here are some recent updates regarding child care licensing. Please feel free to reach out to your licensor with any further questions or concerns.

Licensing in General

- Washington County has started opening buildings for the public. Safety measures have been implemented in order to provide social distancing and a clean environment. Licensing is continuing to work remotely so if you need to see a licensor, please make an appointment with them.
 - If you do a drop-in visit to a county building, there is no guarantee that the person you need will be in the office.
 - All guests of the Government Center must check in at a new centralized reception area right inside the front doors.
- We will start resuming home visits for your licensing renewals and off year visits. We are all adjusting to a new normal where this is concerned. We will take that into account during our visits and ask that you do the same with us. This is the guidance we are following:
 - Many of the items we are mandated to observe or go over can be done via a phone call or video conferencing. We will do as much of the visit over the phone as we can.
 - Licensors will come to your home to do a quick visit to see things we are not able to view on the phone. This visit will be limited to around 15 minutes.
 - Licensors will do a self-assessment of COVID -19 symptoms and will not do a visit if they are unwell.
 - Licensors will ask you COVID -19 screening questions.
 - Licensors will wash their hands, use hand sanitizer, and will wear a mask for the visit.
 - We also encourage you to wear a mask during the visit. If you do not have access to a mask, let your licensor know during your phone call. We may be able to access one.
 - If you have not been able to meet licensing requirements in a particular area, please talk with your licensor. We understand the last few months have been difficult and we want to help get you into compliance when it is feasible.

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

- We did consult with the Washington County Department of Public Health for guidance on equipment to use and the length of visits.
- Because licenses due for the last 3 months have been extended, licensors have multiple visits to conduct. Licensors will be working on those licenses who were due for renewal. They will then work on doing alternate year visits. Please be patient with your licensor. They will be doing all they can to make sure all licenses are current.
- If you are high risk for COVID and are concerned about visits, please contact your licensor to discuss a plan for your relicensing.
- The Department of Human Services is still working with the federal government on issues related to the roll-out of the enhanced background study with fingerprints. Currently, the roll-out has been placed on hold and when we receive information on how to move forward, we will share that information with you. As you can imagine, the amount of preparation for the fingerprint clinics we already had was vast and it may take some time to re-plan that effort even after we have more direction.
- The Department of Human Services sent information on a bill which will be presented if a special session of the legislature opens. In case you missed it, this is what DHS sent out to providers:
 - The bill brings the state into compliance with federal requirements and also reflects policy choices made by legislators. We encourage you to review the bill ahead of time if you are able. The language we are referencing is included in the Health and Human Services bill. You can also find the bill on the Revisor's webpage (www.revisor.mn.gov) by searching for Senate File 3322 under Legislative Documents. The training provisions begin in Article 1, Section 11, which can be found on page 16.
 - Here is the full URL for the Health and Human Services bill: www.revisor.mn.gov/bills/text.php?number=SF3322&session=ls91&version=latest&session_number=0&session_year=2020&format=pdf
- Continue to seek guidance from resources such as the Minnesota Department of Health and the CDC. If you are implementing guidance from these sources, that will satisfy licensing mandates.
 - We know there was a lot of discussion on the use of playground equipment. The following is guidance given by the Minnesota Department of Health: www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/schools/playground.pdf

Communication

- Washington County will continue to provide updated information to you. However, you can also subscribe directly to the state emails for immediate, 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>
- The Children's Cabinet holds phone conferences for child care providers every other Monday. The next meeting is scheduled for 6/22/2020. Stay tuned for updates.
 - The Minnesota Department of Health has an email address for questions related to health and COVID-19. This email is checked often:
health.schools.covid19@state.mn.us

Resources *(all resources listed below are resources given previously)*

- The Department of Health has given guidance for cleaning and disinfecting in child care programs: (This link is also available on the Washington County Child Care Licensing web page.) www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/schools/clean.html
- The Department of Health has also updated materials and resources related to COVID-19: www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/materials/index.html
- The Children's Cabinet continues to update the webpage on resources related to Child Care Providers and COVID-19. There is information on licensing, financials, CCAP, and other resources: <https://mn.gov/mmb/childcare/providers/>
- Remember, Washington County has a web page for all COVID-19 updates: www.co.washington.mn.us/coronavirusupdates-childcareproviders

Child Care 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