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GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS
LANSING

ORLENE HAWKS
DIRECTOR

MEMORANDUM

DATE: April 27, 2020

TO: Current Licensed Providers

FROM: Bureau of Community and Health Systems – Child Care Division

SUBJECT: **UPDATED** Guidance for Child Care Providers and Critical Infrastructure Workers During the COVID-19 State Emergency

This memorandum provides updated guidance for licensed child care providers during the COVID-19 state emergency.

Closure Required, Except to Serve Critical Infrastructure Workers

On April 24, Governor Whitmer signed [Executive Order 2020-59](#). This order directs all Michigan businesses and operations to temporarily suspend in-person operations that are not necessary to sustain or protect life. This order also directs Michiganders to stay in their homes unless they're part of the critical infrastructure workforce as outlined in EO 2020-59.

Child care providers must ensure they are caring only for children of workers as defined in [EO 2020-59](#).

Care for Children of Critical Infrastructure Workers

If a child care provider is staying open to serve children of critical infrastructure workers:

- Child care providers are required to ask a child's caregiver(s) to confirm that at least one caregiver is a critical infrastructure worker. Child care providers are not required to verify whether a caregiver qualifies. For a summary of who is considered a critical infrastructure worker, click [here](#).
- If a family has two available caregivers, and only one is in the critical infrastructure workforce, the child is still eligible to be in care.

Child care providers that are remaining open shall implement a symptoms monitoring protocol and more regular cleaning and disinfecting practices.

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services has produced guidance to assist you. Their guidance, as well as other state resources for child care providers, can be found at www.michigan.gov/coronavirus. Click “Resources” to view materials specific to child care. Providers should also check with their local health department for local guidance and orders.

What This Means for Families

There is disaster relief child care available to children whose caregivers have been identified as part of the critical infrastructure workforce. Families should complete the form at www.helpmegrow-mi.org/essential or call 211 if they need help locating available care. At this time, families will be charged for disaster relief child care.

Note: If a family has two available caregivers, and only one is in the critical infrastructure workforce, the child is still eligible for disaster relief child care.

Families should confirm that they are eligible for disaster relief child care under [EO 2020-59](#).

The definition of critical infrastructure workers are defined in section 8, 9 and 10 of [EO 2020-59](#).

www.michigan.gov/coronavirus/0,9753,7-406-98178_98157---,00.html

Frequently Asked Questions Related to Child Care & the State of Emergency and EO 2020-16 and EO 2020-21

My CPR & First Aid cards are expiring and/or training is unavailable. What do I do?

The American Heart Association recommends regulatory offices extend the expiration dates on their CPR and First Aid cards by 60 days. Child Care Licensing will allow a 60-day extension of the expiration date for all refresher/update CPR and first aid trainings with a written acknowledgement by the child care provider agreeing that they will complete the training as soon as reasonably possible after the State of Emergency order has been lifted. For new staff that don't have previous first aid or CPR trainings, online training can be utilized now with the understanding that they will complete the in-person skills test once the State of Emergency order is cancelled.

I am unable to get a physical evaluation and/or TB test right now. What should I do?

If a person is unable to obtain a physical evaluation and/or TB test at this time, they will need to complete those items as soon as they are available in their area. We also expect that the child care provider complete a written acknowledgement that they will complete those items as soon as reasonably possible after the State of Emergency order is cancelled.

Inspections of furnaces, hot water units and radon tests are due with no renewal options available. What should I do?

The child care provider must complete a written acknowledgement that these types of inspections and tests need to be completed as soon as reasonably possible after of the State of Emergency order is cancelled.

What if a child, or caregiver of a child, staff member, or my family member tests positive for COVID-19?

The child care provider must contact their local Health Department to determine the locally established protocol for handling COVID-19. The local Health Department will determine if the provider must close or the conditions in which the provider can remain open or re-open after a closure.

Who does the child care provider need to inform if any of the above test positive for COVID-19?

The child care provider must immediately notify the health department, caregivers of children in care, and their child care licensing consultant if anyone who was in the provider's home tests positive for COVID-19.

Where do I find current information regarding COVID-19?

Here is a website that will provide up to date information on the virus:

www.michigan.gov/coronavirus

How do I find the Governor’s Executive Orders and the orders signed by Director Orlene Hawks that focused on child care?

The Orders can be found at the Child Care Licensing website:

www.michigan.gov/michildcare

The following is the direct link to the Orders:

www.michigan.gov/documents/lara/Schools_Order_032420_684741_7.pdf

www.michigan.gov/documents/coronavirus/Provisional_Order_032420_684656_7.pdf

www.michigan.gov/coronavirus

What is required to open a Disaster Relief Child Care Center in a School Building?

The website for opening a Disaster Relief Child Care Center in a School Building can be found at the Child Care Licensing website:

www.michigan.gov/michildcare

What is required to open a Disaster Relief Child Care Center with a Provisional License that is not in a School Building?

The website for opening a Disaster Relief Child Care Center with a Provisional License can be found at the Child Care Licensing website: www.michigan.gov/michildcare.

The required application can be found at this website as well.

I still have questions about how to serve essential workers. Who should I contact?

The following are four Regional Centers affiliated with MDE and Great Start to Quality.

Southeastern Region –	Shauna Aitson:	Shauna.Aitson@liveunitedsem.org
Western Region –	Julie Dibert:	jdunks@oaisd.org
UP/Northern Region –	Robin Hornkohl:	rhornkohl@eupschools.org
	Jessica Savoie:	jessicas@eupschools.org
Eastern Region –	Karen Black:	karen.black@inghamisd.org

Is the child care provider required to make the caregivers show proof that they are essential workers via a letter from the employer?

Child care providers are required to ask the caregiver(s) to confirm that at least one caregiver is a critical infrastructure worker. Child care providers are not required to verify whether a caregiver qualifies. For a summary of who is considered a critical infrastructure worker, click [here](#). If a family has two available caregivers, and only one is in the critical infrastructure workforce, the child is still eligible to be in care.

May a child care provider refuse to take a child into care, even though the caregivers are healthcare workers for fear of having the virus brought into child care?

Child care providers always have the option to temporarily cease operating. If the provider remains open, it is their decision for how many children they will care for, while not exceeding their capacity and ratios.

Can my child care provider charge me to hold my spot while they are closed due to Executive Orders?

Child Care Licensing does not regulate the billing practices between parents and licensed providers. It is recommended that billing concerns/questions be discussed between the parents and provider.

What are the MDHHS guidelines regarding COVID-19 monitoring protocols and cleaning procedures for child care providers?

The following are links to MDHHS guidelines:

www.michigan.gov/documents/coronavirus/DHHS_Guidance_-_COVID-19_Childcare_Symptoms_Monitoring_Protocol_685194_7.pdf

www.michigan.gov/documents/coronavirus/DHHS_Guidance_-_COVID-19_Cleaning_and_Disinfecting_of_Childcare_Environments_685195_7.pdf

What if I have questions about unemployment, funding under the federal Care Act, MDE subsidy, or other billing questions. Where can I find more answers?

Here is the link for FAQ for child care providers “by a team across state government.”

www.michigan.gov/coronavirus/0,9753,7-406-98178_98157---,00.html

Should child care workers wear masks when serving children?

In [Executive Order 2020-59](#), Governor Whitmer required all employers whose workers perform in person work to provide non-medical grade face coverings to their workers effective April 26. This includes child care providers. Cloth face coverings, such as a homemade mask, scarf, bandana, or handkerchiefs, are best. N95 masks and surgical masks are not recommended at this time. The [CDC](#) provides more guidance for how to properly wear and sanitize a cloth face covering.

To slow the spread of COVID-19, workers are strongly encouraged (and may be required by their employer) to wear a cloth face covering while serving children and interacting with parents and families. We understand the challenges of wearing face covering while serving young children. Employers must develop a preparedness and response plan that includes when, where, how, and if employees are required to wear cloth face coverings.

Should parents and caregivers wear masks when dropping their children off at child care?

We strongly recommend that child care providers implement policies requiring parents and caregivers to wear cloth face coverings when dropping their children off at child care—especially at center-based care. In [Executive Order 2020-59](#), Governor Whitmer required any individual that is able to medically tolerate a face covering must wear a covering over his or her nose and mouth when in any enclosed public space. Cloth face coverings, such as a homemade mask, scarf, bandana, or handkerchiefs, are best. The CDC also recommends wearing cloth face coverings in public settings where other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain (e.g., going to the pharmacy or grocery store). This is especially important in communities with significant community-based transmission.

Should children wear masks while in child care?

At this time, local child care providers should set their own policies about whether children should wear cloth face coverings while in child care. This decision will depend on the age of the child, number of children in care, and the level of community spread. Cloth face coverings should never be placed on young children under age 2, anyone who has trouble breathing, or anyone unable to remove the face covering without assistance. While cloth face coverings help slow the spread of COVID-19, it can be difficult for children (especially toddlers and preschoolers) to wear a cloth face covering. The [American Academy of Pediatrics](#) provides tips for how to help children be more comfortable wearing cloth face coverings and provides more information to inform your decision about whether to require children in your care, over age 2, to wear cloth face coverings.