

Currently Licensed Child Care Centers, Family and Group Homes Providing Child Care During COVID-19 State of Emergency

Executive Order No 2020-16 (COVID-19) was issued to assist the children and families of the essential workforce as defined by EO 2020-16.

The Bureau of Community & Health Systems (BCHS) is providing this information to assist currently licensed Child Care Centers, Family and Group Homes who are wanting to provide Disaster Relief Child Care. The purpose of this information is to provide clarifications under administrative rules as a result of the state emergency that is in effect.

General:

1. LARA encourages trusted neighbors to help each other in providing care for children. The Child Care Organizations Act allows for people to provide unlicensed care for six or fewer children for a period of up to four consecutive weeks in a calendar year.
2. LARA will expedite the licensing process for current and new applicants for licenses.

Family & Group Homes:

To encourage currently licensed family and group homes to continue to provide child care during the state of emergency, LARA will relax the regulatory requirements of the following administrative rules:

- R400.1914 Daily activity program
- R400.1915(3) Indoor space; play equipment and material
- R400.1920 Outdoor play area and equipment
- R400.1907(1)(b) Child's Records
- R400.1931(1) Food preparation and service
- R400.1931(2)(b) Food preparation and service

All other administrative rules and related provisions of Public Act 116, as amended, are required to be met to maintain compliance. Once the state of the emergency is lifted licensed Family and Group Homes for Child Care will need to comply with all the regulatory requirements, including the administrative rules listed above.

Centers:

To encourage currently licensed child care centers to continue to provide child care during the state of emergency, LARA will relax the regulatory requirements of the following administrative rules:

- R400.8179 Program
- R400.8113(7)-(14) Program director qualifications; responsibilities
- R400.8122(5)-(7) Lead caregiver; qualifications; responsibilities
- R400.8170(4) Outdoor play area
- R400.8173(7) Equipment

All other administrative rules and provisions of the Child Care Organizations Act are required to be met to maintain compliance. Once the state of the emergency is lifted licensed Child Care Centers will need to comply with all the regulatory requirements, including the administrative rules listed above.

Resources:

1. State's COVID-19 website: www.michigan.gov/Coronavirus.
2. Any currently licensed center, family or group child care home, may contact their licensing consultant or child care licensing division at **517-284-9730**.

BCHS/LARA recognizes that relaxing regulatory burden does not alleviate the other financial, staffing, or operational challenges that licensed child care providers are experiencing due the COVID-19 public health emergency. Under the leadership and coordination of the Governor's Office, BCBS/LARA continues to actively work with its state and federal partners to seek and secure additional relief.