



Ned Lamont
Governor
Susan Bysiewicz
Lt. Governor

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

OFFICE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD



Beth Bye
Commissioner

DATE: May 7, 2021 **REVISED May 26, 2021**

TO: Licensed Child Care and Youth Camp Providers

FROM: Beth Bye, Commissioner

RE: Coronavirus Memo 39 **REVISED**
Notice of Declared Emergency and Impact on Waivers

On April 19, 2021, the declared state of emergency was extended until May 20, 2021. It is possible that this end date will once again be extended; however, at some point in time the state of emergency will finally end. The Office of Early Childhood (OEC) wants to remind child care and youth camp providers to prepare for the end of the state of emergency to lessen the impact on children, families, staff, themselves and others. The waivers provided in this memo will end as of June 30, 2021 and then this memo will be removed.

Revised May 26, 2021	Provides notification that waivers in this memo will end June 30, 2021.
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While some legal waivers of statutes and licensing requirements may be rolled back prior to the end of the declared emergency, it is important to note that any remaining additional legal waivers that were issued in OEC memos will no longer be in effect at such time as the declared state of emergency ends. Such waivers are found in OEC memos 4, 7, 16, 18, 22, and 28.

The OEC does not have the legal authority to continue to waive standards beyond the date the state of emergency ends. Given this, the OEC is encouraging providers to take efforts now to meet standards that have been waived rather than waiting until the state of emergency ends. For example, this may be arranging for staff to complete training, securing health records for staff and children, and/or ensuring staff meet the head teacher requirements for child care centers. The OEC will consider all efforts taken to comply when evaluating compliance during licensing inspections and so documentation of those efforts should be maintained.

One waiver that is important for family child care home providers to take note of is the permission for licensed family child care home providers to care for school age children, who are remote learning, full time and without a staff member present. Please note that this waiver is contingent on children enrolled in school full time who are following the school's plan for learning (in person and/or distance learning). This waiver will end when the school year concludes or when the declared state of emergency ends, whichever occurs first. Providers are

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urged to have conversations now with parents so that they understand that this waiver will soon end. When this waiver ends, three additional school age children may only be cared for full time during the summer when an approved assistant or substitute is present and assisting the provider.

Expired