



Ned Lamont
Governor
Susan Bysiewicz

Lt. Governor

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

OFFICE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD



Beth Bye
Commissioner

DATE: March 31, 2020

TO: Providers of Services to Young Children

FROM: Beth Bye, Commissioner

RE: Coronavirus Memo #15
Reduced Group Size and Enhanced Health Procedures for Child Care Programs During COVID-19 Emergency

On March 30, 2020 Governor Ned Lamont issued Executive Order NO. 7Q, which includes provisions limiting group sizes in child care programs and enhancing health procedures. These provisions have been put in place to ensure child care operations that are ongoing during the COVID-19 emergency implement procedures that help limit the spread of COVID-19 and protect the health and safety of children and staff.

Effective immediately, and for the period of the declared state of emergency, the following requirements are in place for all child care operations including but not limited to child care centers, group child care homes, family child care homes, youth camps, and child care facilities that are exempt from licensing requirements pursuant to Section 19a-77 of the Connecticut General Statutes.

- Group sizes are limited to no more than ten children in one space.
- Any child care program caring for more than thirty children in one facility must obtain approval from the OEC and demonstrate sufficient separation of groups within the facility. An application for approval will be available on the OEC website.
- All children and child care staff must be checked prior to entering the program for any observable illness, including cough or respiratory distress, and to confirm temperature below one hundred degrees Fahrenheit.
- Enhanced cleaning and disinfection practices shall be implemented.

- All staff and children must adhere to regular hand washing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds as follows:
 - Before coming in contact with any child
 - Before and after eating
 - After sneezing, coughing or nose blowing
 - After using the rest room
 - Before handling food
 - After touching or cleaning surfaces that may be contaminated
 - After using any shared equipment like toys, computer keyboards, mouse

If soap and water are not available, an alcohol based sanitizer shall be used. Adults should always supervise use of alcohol-based sanitizers. Likewise, all handwashing activities must be supervised by adults to verify that children are properly washing their hands for 20 seconds.

- All staff must cover coughs and sneezes with tissue or the corner of the elbow. All staff must also encourage children, when appropriate, to cover coughs and sneezes with tissues or the corner of the elbow. All soiled tissues must be dispensed immediately after each use.

Thank you for your continued efforts to protect the health and safety of Connecticut's children.