



Ned Lamont
Governor
Susan Bysiewicz
Lt. Governor

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

OFFICE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD



Beth Bye
Commissioner

DATE: March 31, 2020 REVISED June 3, 2020 REVISED June 25, 2020 **REVISED November 3, 2020**

TO: Providers of Services to Young Children

FROM: Beth Bye, Commissioner

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

Since March, 2020 Governor Ned Lamont has issued numerous [Executive Orders](#) that mandate enhanced requirements for child care programs. 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.

The following requirements apply to 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 sixteen (16) children in one space. Up to two additional children may be added when the following contingencies are satisfied: Up to 18 children will be allowable in a space provided a minimum of fifty square feet of total indoor usable program space is available for each child in the group. Bathrooms, hallways, kitchens and food service areas, refrigerators, heating and cooling units, staff desks, storage units and any space or equipment used for other than the activities of the children shall be deducted from the total indoor usable square footage of program space.
 - The allowance of 16 children per space was effective August 20, 2020. The expanded permission for up to 18 children was effective October 12, 2020.
 - Please note: A group size of eight (8) children is still required for infants and toddlers in a licensed child care center or group child care home. The capacity of a licensed family child care home is not modified by this change.
- All children and child care staff must undergo a health screening prior to entering the program for any observable illness, including cough or respiratory distress.
- 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.