Date: March 19, 2020
Topic: COVID-19 and Child Care
Contact: Child Care Licensing at (702) 486-3822
To: Child Care Providers

The purpose of this bulletin is to notify child care providers and the public of COVID-19 responses and adaptions.

Within Nevada, **child care has been deemed essential** by Gov. Steve Sisolak and facilities are **not** required to close at this time. Licensing would like to provide support and guidance to our community.

Please see the following guidance:

1. Child care facilities **are *not* being mandated to close** and **have been deemed essential** – Child care has been defined as a necessary service within the community and facilities can choose to remain open and serve the public at large.

2. Child care facilities that are **choosing to stay open** are asked to adhere to the guidelines as issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and by Child Care Licensing:
    a. For information on disinfecting agents, talking to children about COVID-19, when to send children or staff home, and more visit https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/index.html.
    b. Adhere to the Nevada licensing statutes and regulations. Note that the CDC and Child Care Licensing have direction on sanitation, disinfection and cleaning specific to COVID-19.
        i. This CDC web site is specific to cleaning and disinfecting https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/organizations/cleaning-disinfection.html
        ii. Child Care Licensing recommends:
            1. When cleaning a nonporous surface in a facility, including, without limitation, cleaning toys, cribs, tables, highchairs and surfaces used to change diapers, the staff of the facility shall:
                a. Clean the surface first with soap and water to remove any dirt or debris; and
                b. Disinfect the surface with a disinfecting agent.
            2. For purposes of COVID-19 disinfecting agents should consist of:
                a. One-third of a cup of liquid chlorine bleach added to 1 gallon of water that is prepared fresh daily and kept in a closed container;
                b. One and a half tablespoons of liquid chlorine bleach added to 1 quart of water that is prepared fresh daily; or
                c. A solution that is approved by the appropriate state or local agency and is at least as effective as the solutions.

3. **Emergency child care and enrollment** – current providers are encouraged to use their facility's available spaces to provide care to our community of emergency responders, health care providers, and military during this critical time.

4. **Child cares choosing to close** – Please call Child Care Licensing at (702) 486-3822 or send an email to dpbhchildcarelicensing@health.nv.gov to inform licensing about closures.

5. **COVID-19 communication and alerts** – As this a nationwide crisis, Child Care Licensing is adhering to the messaging of the state and federal governments. To ensure communication is consistent and accurate, Child Care Licensing will send messages to providers through email, Facebook and the Child Care Licensing web page and the state response web site https://nvhealthresponse.nv.gov/.

6. **Child care and subsidy temporary policy adjustments**

    a. Any licensed provider in Nevada that is closed by any government agency due to COVID-19 will continue to receive subsidy payments based on the previous month's enrollment for the term of the quarantine. If a child who is enrolled in one of these programs enrolls in another program due to the closure, subsidy will be paid to both providers through the term of the quarantine or for up to 30 days, whichever is less, as long as the second provider is also eligible for subsidy.
    b. All children participating in the subsidy program will not be subject to termination based on number of absent days until further notice.
    c. Any 12-month redetermination that is due between March 16, 2020, and June 1, 2020, will automatically be renewed for an additional 12 months. No renewal documents are required by families.

COVID 19 FAQs for Nevada Child Care Providers

1. **Will we be mandated to close?**
   Child care facilities are not being mandated to close at this time.
2. **Are we considered essential or non-essential?**
   Child care is considered essential.
3. **How will we be notified of important information?**
   The Nevada Governor's office coordinates with all programs and posts updates regularly. Licensing is in lock step with the directions issued by the Governor's office. Licensing will post any notifications to the listserv as approved and authorized by our administration.
4. **Is temporary care allowed?**
   If your business allows for temporary care, then you can care for those children you enroll into your school.
5. **Are you recommending that we close?**
   Nevada Child Care Licensing is not recommending closure, but for those who choose to stay open please adhere to the recommendations of the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), state and local health departments and disinfecting regulations within Nevada Administrative Code 432A to help ensure safety.
6. **Whom do we notify if we decide to close?**
   Please contact the Child Care Licensing main number at (702) 486-3822 or send an email to dpbhchildcarelicensing@health.nv.gov to inform us about closures.
7. **If we close what does that mean for our license?**
   Closures are voluntary. You are allowed to close your business without any repercussions to your license; you are only required to alert Child Care Licensing about your closure and how long you will be closed.
8. **If we remain open, but our enrollment is low are there recommendations on how we can up our enrollment?**
   Child Care Licensing is working with other Department of Health and Human Services programs to develop a system in which providers can input their availability and that information will be made available to the public. When this system is developed and ready for providers to input their information, Child Care Licensing will announce it via email.