Child Care Update

Dear Family Child Care and Center-Based Child Care Providers:

It's been an emotional and tragic week with our state watching George Floyd’s humanity get erased. We know some providers have been directly impacted by political unrest in the past few days, including building damage, closed programs, and reduced access to basic needs. Our resources website provides links to information for help with food, health care, child care, and more.

COVID-19 UPDATE

Minnesotans have taken many precautions to slow the spread of COVID-19. As providers, so many of you have used your normal procedures and created new steps to prevent transmission and protect your staff and the youngest Minnesotans in your care. The COVID-19 pandemic has affected each of us in one way or another. Thank you for your work in the state’s response.

As access to testing increases, the number of cases are rising. It’s more than likely you or someone you know will contract the virus, whether it’s children in your care, staff, friends, family members, or even yourself. This will continue to affect our lives until an effective treatment and/or some level of immunity is established.

Together with the Minnesota Departments of Education (MDE) and Health and Human Services, we are here to help you in navigating through this pandemic. We are grateful for your feedback; the stories you share, the operational realities you face, and your ongoing needs. We carry these with us as we develop guidance and identify supports for you, ensure children and families have access to child care, and manage the impact of this virus responsibly. We are committed supporting you during this challenging time.

The mn.gov/childcare site will continue to include the most updated public health guidance.

Provider Call

The next provider call is Monday, June 8, at 7 p.m. The call will feature agency partners, including the Minnesota Department of Health, Minnesota Department of
To have a question answered: Email your question to childrenscabinet.MMB@state.mn.us by Friday, June 5, at 12 p.m.

Join the call: Log in to WebEx or by phone (1-415-655-0003; Access code: 966 618 957).

Access the recording of the May 26 conference call.

Farmers to Families Food Box Program

The USDA shared guidance to raise awareness among nonprofit and faith-based organizations, schools, and Indian Tribal Organizations, who can partner with USDA distributors to provide food boxes for families in need. Child care centers that are nonprofit organizations are eligible to receive and distribute boxes.

Share Your Status

As businesses re-open we anticipate additional families needing child care, including an increased need for school-age care. Please continue to update your capacity through the survey. Given the Stay Safe order, updated guidance on enrollment prioritization is available for schools and those providing child care. If you have questions about your license and availability to serve additional school-age children, call the DHS hotline at 1-888-234-1268.

Public Health Support

For specific health questions regarding your care settings, reach out to the MDH school and childcare team at health.schools.covid19@state.mn.us.

Please continue to send questions to childrenscabinet.MMB@state.mn.us or call us at 651-259-3636.

Thank you,

Erin Bailey, Executive Director, Governor’s Children’s Cabinet

On behalf of participating agency leaders and staff