



Minnesota's Children's Cabinet

Child Care Update

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

We wanted to share a reminder for the upcoming provider call and other updates on financial and business resources, school-age care, updates on decision tree for exclusions due to illness, and other updates. Thank you for all you continue to do for the children and families in your community.

Provider Call

The next provider call is **Monday, Sept. 14, at 7 p.m.** The call features agency partners, including the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE), Minnesota Department of Health (MDH), and Department of Human Services (DHS) and will discuss the saliva testing program, school-age care updates, and answer your submitted questions.

- **To have a question answered:** Email your question to childrenscabinet.MMB@state.mn.us by Friday, Sept. 11 at noon.
- **Join the call:** Log in to [WebEx](#) or by phone (1-415-655-0003; Access code: 146 858 4024).
- Access the Aug. 17 [recording](#).

Financial Resources

The Children's Cabinet and DHS are working together on a proposal to provide an additional round of the COVID-19 Public Health Support Funds for Child Care for October to December. The program requirements and application process are based on the previous round of funding that is set to end this month. If you have any feedback on the COVID-19 Public Health Support Funds for Child Care that would help inform this proposal for the next round of supports, please email it to childrenscabinet.MMB@state.mn.us. This proposal has not yet been approved and we will provide more information as it becomes available. If approved, providers will need to reapply even if they received payments from previous rounds.

School-Age Care Updates

Child Care Assistance Program. On Wednesday, Sept. 2, DHS shared new [information](#) for Child Care Assistance Providers. This information is related to authorizing and paying for school-age children in child care due to distance or hybrid learning and policies for young children whose parents delay kindergarten entrance.

Licensing. On Monday, Aug. 31, DHS announced the following temporary modifications to Licensing and Certification Procedures to meet need for additional school-age care:

- [Temporary exemption from needing a child care license when providing support for distance learning](#)
- [Accelerated approval of a satellite location for an existing Licensed or Certified Child Care Center](#)

Contact your licensor directly with questions.

Updated MDH Exclusion Guidance

Based on feedback from many of you and health experts, the [COVID-19 Decision Tree for People in Schools, Youth, and Child Care Programs](#) was updated on Aug. 30. The exclusion guidance can also be found in [Hmong](#), [Somali](#) and [Spanish](#). Please review and follow the decision tree if a child, student, or staff person is experiencing the following symptoms:

- More common: fever greater than or equal to 100.4° F, new onset and/or worsening cough, difficulty breathing, new loss of taste or smell.
- Less common: sore throat, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, chills, muscle pain, excessive fatigue, new onset of severe headache, new onset of nasal congestion or runny nose.

If you are reporting a case in your setting, email health.schoolcc.followup@state.mn.us.

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

Coronavirus Tax Relief Webinar

If you have questions on requirements related to COVID-19 leave requirements and relief for businesses associated with this leave, please join upcoming webinars hosted by Minnesota District Office, U.S. Dept. of Labor Wage and Hour Division, and IRS. The webinars will discuss coronavirus tax relief for employers and business owners related to the Employee Retention Credit and Paid Sick Leave and

Paid Child Care Leave. You'll learn more about eligibility, who must provide paid, when it is optional, how the credit on employment taxes works, and pitfalls to avoid.

- [Register](#) for Sept. 17, 2020 Webinar from 2-3 p.m.
- [Register](#) for Sept. 24, 2020 Webinar from 2-3 p.m.

COVID-19 Testing: Staff Saliva Testing and Testing Sites

On Monday, Aug. 31, DHS sent a communication to licensed child care programs with unique URLs to access a free saliva testing kit, an employee communication template, a FAQ on saliva testing for child care, and a patient instructions sheet from Vault Health. We will share more information on the saliva testing on the provider call on Sept. 14. In the meantime, if you have too many or too few codes or did not receive your codes reach out to dhs.childcaretesting@state.mn.us. If you are having trouble with your URL or have technical questions about the testing process, contact Vault Health at mn@vaulthealth.com or 800-800-5698.

You can find [testing locations](#) across the state on [COVID response page](#). As a reminder, COVID-19 testing is covered without cost-sharing, including for those [who are uninsured](#).

MDH works in partnership with communities to provide safe and free on-site COVID-19 testing in areas with outbreaks, increasing cases, or other barriers to access existing test sites. Check on locations and dates for new [community testing sites](#).

As a reminder, children and staff members should be excluded from your programs while they are awaiting results of a COVID-19 test based on [updated decision tree](#). This does not apply to individuals and families who are regularly tested as a part of a prevention plan in their employment (e.g. long-term care staff or other health care families).

If you, your staff, or families are experiencing any barriers to testing, please share your story and feedback so we can help address. Email us at childrenscabinet.mmb@state.mn.us.

Share Your Capacity and Status

Please continue to update your capacity through the [survey](#). If you received the COVID-19 Public Health Support Funds, this is a requirement of your attestation. If you have questions about your license and availability to serve additional school-age children, call the DHS hotline at 1-888-234-1268.

Provider Business Update Survey Including Market Rates

Every three years, the State of Minnesota is required by law to conduct a provider business update survey and gather rate information from all licensed child care

programs. This is your opportunity to provide important information to families looking for child care and to inform reimbursement rates for the Child Care Assistance Program.

You can complete the provider business update by using the [Update Tool](#). If you've never used the Update Tool before, you will need to activate your account first using your License ID# and email address on file with Child Care Aware. If you need assistance, please email UpdateTool@parentaware.org. For alternate ways to complete the business update, please contact the Child Care Information Services team at InformationServices@childcareawaremn.org.

All programs that complete the rates and fees section of the update will be eligible to win a gift card. The sooner you complete the provider business update, the more chances you will have to win!

Thank you for your participation and your hard work. It's child care professionals like you who nurture our children, prepare them for life, and support their families.

Contact Us

If you have any questions, please send to childrenscabinet.mmb@state.mn.us or call us at 651-259-3636.

Thank you,

Erin Bailey & Jenny Moses, Governor's Children's Cabinet
On behalf of participating agency leaders and staff

Contact Us.

Website: www.mn.gov/childrenscabinet
Email: childrenscabinet.MMB@state.mn.us

