



Licensed Child Care: Notice of Pandemic Requirements

September 28, 2021

You are receiving this email because you are a licensed family child care provider, an authorized agent of a DHS-licensed child care center, or subscribed to the family child care or licensed child care center listserv.

Dear Providers,

The Minnesota Department of Human Services (DHS) is grateful for the work you continue to do in service of children and their families throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. As the State's peacetime emergency has come to a close and the waivers related to licensing requirements have expired, DHS recognizes that the COVID-19 pandemic has not stopped and child care providers are faced with tough questions of how to align policies and practices for navigating COVID-19, and the Delta variant, which have direct impact on providers, staff, children, and their families.

Providers have been encouraged to follow recommended health guidance from the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) to address COVID-19 since July. Since that time, Minnesota has seen a surge in COVID-19 infections due to the Delta variant, which poses an increased risk to children due to its transmissibility and their inability to be vaccinated at this time.

Due to these concerns, DHS and MDH are working to prepare for and respond to continued emergencies presented by the pandemic. **As part of that preparation and response, DHS and MDH are notifying child care license holders that, effective immediately, under the pandemic planning provision of the Minnesota Human Services Licensing Act, child care license holders are required to comply with the following MDH guidance and recommendations for child care settings:**

- **Report Cases:** Report cases of COVID-19 to the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH). Minnesota Rule 4605.7070 requires any person in charge of any institution, school, child care facility, or camp to report cases of COVID-19 to the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH). Use the [COVID-19 Case](#)

[Report Form for K-12 Schools, Childcares, and Youth Programming \(Camps, Sports, Extracurricular Activities\)](#) to report each child or staff member who receives a positive test result.

- **Notification:** Notify the parent/guardian of a child who is identified as a close contact of someone who tested positive for COVID-19. MDH has a [template letter](#) to use for this purpose. The letter explains that the close contact should stay home and not go to child care during their quarantine period. Providers may elect any of the quarantine options outlined in the template letter, to the extent the option aligns with MDH's [Best Practices for Handling a Confirmed Case of COVID-19](#).
- **Quarantine and Isolation:** Exclude/quarantine children and staff who test positive for COVID-19 and those who have had close contact with someone who receives a positive test result based on the [Best Practices for Handling a Confirmed Case of COVID-19](#). Identification and quarantine of close contacts plays an important role in minimizing the spread of COVID-19. Questions related to the Best Practices for Handling a Confirmed Case of COVID-19 document can be directed to MDH at health.schools.covid19@state.mn.us.

All licensed child care providers are now required to follow the three directives listed above as a part of licensing compliance. DHS may issue licensing actions including correction orders, fines, conditional licenses, revocations, and suspensions to providers who do not comply with the MDH guidance and recommendations related to COVID-19 as specified above.

MDH has additional guidance and best practice recommendations for [child care settings](#). DHS recommends that child care license holders review and incorporate as many layered mitigation strategies as possible to reduce the spread of COVID-19 and maintain safe operations.

Notice to Child Care Programs Receiving Child Care Stabilization Grants

Child care programs that receive Child Care Stabilization Grants are required to comply with state and local COVID-19 guidance, including all [MDH guidance and recommendations](#), as a requirement of the grant and by attesting to this requirement in their application for grant funds. DHS may issue notices of overpayment to recover grant funds for periods that providers do not comply with MDH guidance and recommendations related to COVID-19. Questions about the [Child Care Stabilization Grant Program](#) can be directed to SupportFunds@childcareawaremn.org.

Occupational Safety & Health Administration (OSHA)

Under federal and Minnesota OSHA laws, Minnesota employers are responsible for providing a safe and healthy workplace free from recognized hazards likely to cause death or serious physical harm. For additional information or assistance, businesses can contact MNOSHA Workplace Safety Consultation at 651-284-5060 or osha.consultation@state.mn.us. Workers who have concerns about safety in the workplace can contact MNOSHA Compliance at osha.compliance@state.mn.us, 651-284-5050 or 877-470-6742. Click to edit this placeholder text.

Authorities:

- Minnesota Statutes, section 245A.04, subdivision 15 (pandemic planning)
 - Minnesota Statutes, sections 245A.06 and 245A.07 (licensing sanctions)
 - Minnesota Rules, part 4605.7070
 - 2021 Minnesota Session Laws – First Special Session, Chapter 14, Article 11, Section 36 (Declaration of COVID-19 Public Health Disaster)
 - 2021 Minnesota Session Laws – First Special Session, Chapter 7, Article 14, Section 21 (child care stabilization grants)
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