

3/13/2020

Subject: Licensed Centers from DHS

Below is the letter I'm told went out to all centers a little bit ago. I'm sending it again to ensure you all received it. Use the link in the letter below as a guide. The link can also be shared with parents if you want to share. This is a fluid situation so things could change. At this time, however, no centers are being mandated to close by DHS. Some programs that have temporarily closed have done so at their discretion, which again, at this time, is at their discretion. Again, keep doing the things you all have been doing the whole time any other day/week/month/year in regards to such things as frequent hand washing, cleaning, sanitizing, disinfecting, and following your health and safety policies/practices which includes exclusion of sick children and staff. Use your best discretion at this time as far as things like field trips, group outings, etc., and take into consideration information in the link below. If your centers are directly impacted by this virus, contact IDPH, your nurse consultants, and myself as there is a tracking system in place for centers directly impacted.

Thanks,

Nate



Message for Licensed Centers in Iowa

Dear Child Care Providers,

We have received a number of questions regarding expectations of child care programs as Iowa works to prevent community-spread of the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19). The situation and assessment is ongoing and we are relying heavily on our partners at the Iowa Department of Public Health for guidance as it relates to safety within our communities.

At this time, please be aware that DHS leadership is in constant communication and are evaluating options that can both support families and child care providers in the event that operations need to be modified due to COVID-19. If, and when the Department seeks to make modifications to regulatory requirements or the inspection process, you will be informed. At this time, we are not asking child care programs to cease operations.

Please remember to follow the guidance provided by [Healthy Child Care Iowa](#) under "COVID-19 (Novel Coronavirus) Resources." Please click [HERE](#) for direct access to the guidance document.

The Department is keenly aware of the importance of child care during the COVID-19 pandemic. If you are experiencing challenges or barriers, contact your licensing consultant directly and they will coordinate with department leadership to assist you.

We know there are many questions, and while we may not have immediate answers to all of them, we are working to address them and will provide additional information soon.

Thanks much,
Julie Allison
Child Care Bureau Chief

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