



STATE OF CONNECTICUT



DATE: March 13, 2020

TO: Providers of Services to Young Children

FROM: Beth Bye, Commissioner

RE: Coronavirus Memo #4

The State of Connecticut continues to ramp up its preparedness and response efforts amid the global spread of coronavirus disease (COVID-19). The Connecticut Office of Early Childhood (OEC) provides the following information in response to the many questions and concerns that it is receiving pertaining to the COVID 19 situation.

Many schools have recently closed in response to the COVID 19 virus. **The OEC is not instructing or requiring any program to close.** Unless ordered by government officials, programs may remain open by their own determination which may be made considering guidance from Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Department of Public Health and/or your local health department. To guide the decision making process there is [updated guidance](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/index.html) for administrators of public and private childcare programs and K-12 schools on the CDC website (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/index.html>).

On behalf of the OEC, 211childcare is gathering data through a survey to collect information on program closures. Please use this survey link (<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/BMCMXTN>) to share your program's status.

Licensed family child care homes may, within their licensed capacity, provide full-time care to enrolled school age children whose schools have closed due to the COVID 19 virus as done during school vacations.

As you know, Governor Lamont signed declarations invoking both a civil preparedness emergency and a public health emergency in response to the COVID-19 outbreak. The emergency declarations provide the governor with the authority to take specific, swift actions determined necessary to protect the safety and health of residents in the state. This emergency declaration also gives the OEC Commissioner the authority to waive provisions of the licensing regulations during the period of the declared emergency. In an effort to support programs that choose to remain open, the Commissioner is considering several

waivers for the period of the declared emergency. Once issued these waivers will be communicated to providers and posted on the OEC website.

Thank you for your continued efforts to protect the health and safety of Connecticut's children.