

# STATE OF CONNECTICUT OFFICE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD



Commissioner

DATE: August 20, 2021

TO: Licensed child care providers and youth camps

FROM: Beth Bye, Commissioner

RE: Coronavirus Memo #45

Vaccination Requirement

Executive Order 13D, issued by Governor Lamont on August 19, 2021, requires vaccines for child care staff including those who work in Office of Early Childhood (OEC) licensed child care centers, group child care homes, family child care homes, and licensed youth camps that operate during the school year; pre-K – 12 school employees and state employees. This requirement addresses the increasing prevalence of COVID-19 variants, infection and hospitalization rates, and that COVID-19 presents increased risk to children under 12 who cannot be vaccinated and people whose medical conditions reduce their immune response.

Specifically as of September 27, 2021, all covered workers in licensed child care centers, group child care homes, family child care homes, and licensed youth camps operating during the school year must be fully vaccinated for COVID-19 or submit to COVID-19 testing once per week and provide proof of the test results on a weekly basis to the child care program.

This vaccine requirement applies to covered workers including all employees, both full and part-time, contractors, providers, assistants, substitutes, and other individuals working in a child care facility or pre-K to grade 12 school, including individuals providing operational or custodial services or administrative support or any person whose job duties require them to make regular or frequent visits to schools or child care facilities. Covered worker does not include a contractor or employee of an outside vendor who visits a child care facility or pre-K through grade 12 school only to provide one-time or limited-duration repairs, services, or construction, or a volunteer. This vaccine requirement does not apply to household members in licensed family child care homes.

This memo provides information on achieving and maintaining compliance with the requirement for covered workers in a licensed child care facility to become fully vaccinated. The OEC will provide additional details and publish FAQs as more information is available.

### **Vaccination Access**

Vaccines continue to be available through a variety of sources identified through the CT Vaccine Portal.

#### **Testing Availability**

Those individuals who need to be tested for COVID-19 will find information on locations at the <a href="Connecticut COVID-19 Response">Connecticut COVID-19 Response</a> webpage. Testing locations are found by typing a zip code in the search box on the right side of the page.

#### Monitoring

The OEC will monitor licensed programs' compliance with the Governor's order for the vaccine during licensing visits similarly to how the agency currently monitors health records. Depending on the number of staff, this may include a sampling of records. Programs shall maintain on site verification of compliance with the vaccine requirement for each staff (e.g. proof of vaccine or documentation of weekly test results). Instances of noncompliance with the vaccine requirement will be cited and programs will be asked to submit a corrective action plan addressing the violation. Individuals not in compliance with the requirement will not be allowed on the premises of a licensed child care facility until compliance with the vaccine requirement is met.

## **Acceptable Proof of Vaccination Requirement**

Proof of vaccination must be maintained on file at the program and shall include one of the following: (1) CDC COVID-19 Vaccination Record Card or photo of the Vaccination Record Card; (2) Documentation from a health care provider or electronic health care records; or (3) State Immunization Information record. Personal attestation shall not be accepted as an acceptable form of proof of a COVID-19 vaccination.

Programs shall maintain proof of each weekly test result for covered workers who are not fully vaccinated.