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STATE OF CONNECTICUT

OFFICE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD



Connecticut Office of
 Early Childhood

Beth Bye
Commissioner

DATE: May 22, 2020 **REVISED June 2, 2020**

TO: Providers of Services to Young Children

FROM: Beth Bye, Commissioner

RE: **Conoravirus Memo #23 REVISED**
 Access to Testing for Early Care and Education Providers

It is important that early care and education providers have access to testing for COVID-19 so that we can safely manage the delivery of our critical services to young children and their families. The State of Connecticut provides guidance and access to testing for those who need it, prioritized to address high-risk populations and those who are directed by their primary care physician to obtain a test.

Any early childhood staff member who experiences symptoms should contact their primary care provider, if they have one. A primary care provider can order a COVID-19 test for an individual in their community. They can also monitor the individual's symptoms and virus if the test is positive. Any early childhood staff member that tests positive needs to report their test results to their employer. OEC licensed programs are required to report this to DPH and local health, and follow their guidance.

The State of Connecticut, in collaboration with 211, has a listing of [COVID Testing Sites and the priorities for accessing a test at each site](#).

Access to State Drive Up Testing in New Haven for OEC Funded Programs

The Office of Early Childhood in collaboration with the State's Unified Command, is making testing available to direct care providers funded by the OEC including Home Visiting, Birth to Three, School Readiness, Child Day Care, State Head Start, Smart Start and Care 4 Kids. Individuals from these qualifying OEC funded locations who are directly providing care to children may request testing by emailing the Office of Early Childhood at OEC.CovidTesting@ct.gov.

Those individuals from OEC funded programs eligible for testing include:

1. First priority to persons with one or more of these symptoms:
 - a. Fever of 100 degrees or higher; new cough within last 14 days; shortness of breath
2. Second priority to persons with one or more of the following risk factors:
 - a. Exposure to or contact with someone with COVID-19 in the last 14 days; Immunosuppressed; pregnant

The Office of Early Childhood will provide an individual who qualifies for testing with instructions on how to access the drive up testing site in New Haven. Individuals will be provided with a test date by the OEC; no appointments are necessary but approval for testing on a given day is required. Test

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recipients must bring their personal identification and some form of work identification, employment verification or the OEC email confirming the testing approval. Testing uses Abbott swab tests and provides results on-site shortly after the swab is taken.

As a reminder, [OEC's memos](#) provide guidance on health and sanitation practices during the COVID-19 emergency.

If a child or staff member who has been present in the program is diagnosed with COVID-19, the child care provider must notify their local health department, the CT Department of Public Health, families and staff of the child care program about the exposure. More information is available in [Memo #6 REVISED, Message Regarding Child Care](#).

We hope this opportunity will help ensure a healthy and safe experience for OEC providers.

Expired