



STATE OF CONNECTICUT



DATE: August 12, 2022

TO: Licensed Child Care Providers and Youth Camps Operating Vacation Camps

FROM: Beth Bye, Commissioner

RE: Provision of COVID-19 Test Kits and Availability of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

The Office of Early Childhood (OEC), in collaboration with the Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH), is making COVID-19 supplies available to all licensed child care programs and licensed youth camps that are operating vacation camps.

In the coming weeks, COVID-19 test kits will be provided directly to all programs. The number of test kits provided will be based on the program's licensed capacity or for camps, the number of children served by the program during vacation camps. At least half a case (45 kits) will be provided to each program. For most, these test kits will be delivered to the program's location address by mail. Programs with larger deliveries will be contacted in advance so that an on-site delivery can be arranged. There is nothing programs need to do to receive these test kits. Delivery will be arranged through a DPH vendor. Please note that the FDA granted a six-month shelf-life extension for the iHealth COVID-19 Antigen Rapid Tests. The printed expiration date on the box is now inaccurate. For example, if the printed expiration date on the product is August 15, 2022, then the actual expiration date is now February 15, 2023. [A memorandum has been issued by the DPH](#) pertaining to this extension and [guidance related to disposal of rapid antigen test kits that have expired](#) is available.

In addition to test kits, all licensed child care programs and youth camps that are operating vacation camps, have the opportunity to order additional PPE, including face masks, gowns, face shields, hand sanitizer, thermometers and gloves. If you are interested in receiving PPE, please place an order by August 26, 2022 at <https://veoci.com/v/p/195647/workflow/4yzhxn2kh5ps>. When entering your request, please note that requests you make are for "cases" of the PPE, rather than individual boxes. You may place an order to meet your expected supply needs for the fall of 2022 through the winter of 2023. Programs with multiple locations may choose to coordinate placement of a single order on behalf of all of their licensed facilities and enter one large order. You are simply asked to communicate within your corporation so that requests for PPE are not duplicated. Every attempt will be made to provide the entire amount requested, so please request only what you can reasonably store and use.

After a review of the requests, efforts will be made to provide the PPE through one of two approaches; either direct mailing or on-site delivery. On-site deliveries will be reserved for larger orders (i.e. 10 cases or more). The DPH will work with its vendor to deliver the supplies to programs within two weeks of completing and processing the requests.

If you need any assistance with your supply request, you may reach out to PHAD.dph@ct.gov.