

COVID-19 Waivers

The Commissioner of the Office of Early Childhood has temporarily waived the below requirements in accordance with the Executive Orders issued by the Governor during the COVID-19 Pandemic. The below waivers do not extend beyond the period of the declared state of emergency.

LICENSING WAIVERS AND MODIFICATIONS (Executive Orders No. 7B, 7Q, and 7VV)

- **Health and Immunization Records.** Health and immunization records on file prior to the declared state of emergency for children enrolled in licensed child care centers, group child care homes, family child care homes and youth camps which expire during the declared state of emergency are acceptable. Health and immunization records for children that have been attending a legally operating child care program or school that has been temporarily closed due to COVID 19 virus are not required provided the parent attests in writing that the child is up-to-date with physical examination and immunizations and provides information regarding any disabilities and/or special health care needs *[Regulation Section 19a-79-5a(a)(2), 19a-79-6a(e), 19a-87b-7(a)(1), 19a-87b-10(b)(2), 19a-87b-10(k), 19a-428-3(a)]*
- **Staff Training.** Staff training including first aid, CPR, C4K health and safety, and administration of medication training for licensed child care centers, group child care homes, family child care homes and youth camps that expire during the declared state of emergency will fulfill the training requirements *[Regulation Section 19a-79-3a(b)(7), 19a-79-4a(e)(2), 19a-79-4a(e)(1), 19a-79-4a(g), 19a-79-9a(b), 19a-79-13(b), 19a-87b-6(c), 19a-87b-17(b), 19a-87b-18(b), 19a-428-2, 19a-428-5(a), 19a-428-6(a)(2), 19a-428-7(b) and health and safety requirements for C4K providers]*
- **Director Course.** The requirement for staff acting as Director who are due to complete 3 credits in the administration of early childhood education programs or educational administration during the period of the declared state of emergency has been waived *[Regulation Section 19a-79-4a(d)(1)]*
- **Head Teacher.** Head teacher requirements for licensed child care centers and group child care homes have been waived *[Regulation Section 19a-79-4a(c)(1)]*
- **Health Consultant.** Required health consultant visits for child care centers and group child care homes may be conducted over the phone *[Regulation Section 19a-79-3a(b)(4) and (c)(1), 19a-79-4a(h)(2)(H), 19a-79-11(f), 19a-79-12(b)(1)]*
- **Consultant Agreements.** Annual consultant reviews and agreements for child care centers and group child care homes that expire during the declared state of emergency are acceptable *[Regulation Section 19a-79-4a(h)]*
- **Staff Health Records for Centers/Group Homes.** Staff physicals for child care centers, group child care homes and youth camps that expire during the declared state of emergency are acceptable *[Regulation Section 19a-79-4a(a), 19a-428-3(a)]*
- **Health Records for Family Provider, Staff and Household Members.** Provider, staff and household member medical statements/health records for family child care homes that expire during the declared state of emergency are acceptable *[Regulation Section 19a-87b-6(b), 19a-87b-7(a), 19a-87b-8(a) and (b)]*
- **Water Test in Centers/Group Homes.** Water test results for child care centers and group child care homes that expire during the declared state of emergency are acceptable *[Regulation Section 19a-79-7a(c)(3)]*
- **Rabies Certificates.** Rabies certificates for family child care homes that expire during the declared state of emergency are acceptable *[Regulation Section 19a-87b-9(n)]*
- **Prospective Staff in Centers, Group Homes, Family Child Care Providers and their Household Members.** New prospective employees in child care centers and group child care homes, family child care providers and their household members are not required to submit fingerprint cards for

the purposes of criminal history records checks, which are performed in accordance with General Statutes § 29-17a. When individuals are unable to access fingerprint collections services, the comprehensive background checks performed by the OEC are modified to remove fingerprint-supported state and national criminal history records checks for the duration of the declared state of emergency. The OEC will continue to conduct searches of state and national sex offender registry records, Connecticut Child Abuse and Neglect Registry records, and criminal records available through the Connecticut Judicial Branch based on an individual's name and date of birth. Any new hiring of child care staff members or child care licensure that occurs during the declared state of emergency without a criminal history records check will require the submission of fingerprints so that a full comprehensive background check may be completed when the declared state of emergency ends. *[Statute Sections 19a-80 (c), 19a-87b (c), and 17b-749k, and Regulation Sections 19a-79-4a (b) (1) and 19a-87b-6 (f)]*

- **Child Care Licensing Requirement for Hospitals and Convalescent Homes.** A child care license is not required for programs providing child care services, as defined by General Statutes § 19a-77, which are administered by a hospital licensed in accordance with General Statutes § 19a-491 and pursuant to §19-13-D4 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies, or a chronic and convalescent nursing home or rest home with nursing supervision licensed in accordance with General Statutes § 19a-491 and pursuant to § 19-13-D8 of the regulations, provided the program providing child care services is operated on the grounds of such hospital or home, is offered exclusively for children whose parents or legal guardians are working at such hospital or home, the parents or legal guardians remain on the premises of such hospital or home during the hours the children are receiving child care services, and the parents and legal guardians receive notification from such hospital or home that the child care is not licensed by the OEC to provide such child care services. *[Statute Section 19a-80.]*
- **Inspections.** Annual health and safety inspections for Care 4 Kids providers and annual licensing inspections for child care centers, group child care homes, family child care homes and youth camps had previously been waived. *[Statute Section 19a-80 (b) (3), 19a-87b (a) and 19a-426]* Due to enhanced requirements placed on child care programs, **licensing staff will begin conducting shortened inspections.** The focus of these inspections will be to ensure programs are complying with the enhanced requirements put in place by executive orders, OEC memos, and those licensing requirements that help limit the spread of the COVID virus. These inspections will not be full inspections unless significant concerns are identified that warrant a review of all requirements. The enhanced requirements that will be the focus of the visit include the following:
 - Health screening
 - Group sizes no greater than 14
 - Face masks or cloth coverings worn by all staff both inside and outside (unless they can maintain 6ft distancing while outside)
 - Social distancing (e.g. groups of children are not coming within six feet of other groups even on the playground, consistent staff, staggered lunches, staggered arrival and departure times)
 - Regular hand washing by staff and children with soap and water for at least 20 seconds at key times
 - All staff cover coughs and sneezes with tissues or the corner of the elbow and children are encouraged when appropriate to cover coughs and sneezes in the same manner
 - Soiled tissues are disposed immediately after use
 - Enhanced cleaning and disinfecting practices (e.g. between groups of children using common areas or equipment)
 - Entry into program is limited

- This list of enhanced requirements may be increased or relaxed over time due to the fluid nature of this pandemic and on site monitoring will change accordingly.

The inspection will also review the capacity, ratios and group size for centers/groups and the infant toddler restriction for family providers, reportable disease reports, procedures in case of illness and diapering. Any other serious concerns identified during the visit will be addressed.

- **Limited Group Sizes in Childcare.** To limit the spread of COVID-19 and protect the health and safety of children and staff in all child care facilities that are continuing to operate during this civil preparedness and public health emergency, Section 19a-79 and any related regulations, rules, or policies, are modified to require that all child care facilities shall limit group sizes to no more than fourteen children in one space, and to authorize the Commissioner of Early Childhood to issue any implementing orders she deems necessary. *[Regulation Sections 19a-79-4a (c) (5) and 19a-79-10 (c) (3)]*
- **Enhanced Health Procedures for All Operating Child Care Programs.** All children and child care staff shall be screened before entrance to any childcare operation, as described herein, for any observable illness, including cough or respiratory distress.
 - All staff shall practice enhanced **handwashing and health practices**, including hand washing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds as follows:
 - Before coming in contact with any child
 - Before and after eating
 - After sneezing, coughing or nose blowing
 - After using the rest room
 - Before handling food
 - After touching or cleaning surfaces that may be contaminated
 - After using any shared equipment like toys, computer keyboards, mouse
 - If soap and water are not available, an alcohol based sanitizer shall be used. Adults should always supervise use of alcohol-based sanitizers. Likewise, all handwashing activities must be supervised by adults to verify that children are properly washing their hands for 20 seconds.
 - All staff must cover coughs and sneezes with tissue or the corner of the elbow. All staff must also encourage children, when appropriate, to cover coughs and sneezes with tissues or the corner of the elbow. All soiled tissues must be dispensed immediately after each use.
 - This order applies to all childcare operations including but not limited to childcare centers, group childcare homes, family childcare homes, youth camps, and childcare facilities that are exempt from licensing requirements pursuant to Section 19a-77 of the Connecticut General Statutes.
- **Cleaning and Disinfection.** Enhanced cleaning and disinfection practices shall be implemented in all facilities to prevent the spread of COVID-19.
- **Family Child Care School Age Capacity.** Within their licensed capacity, licensed family child care homes may, during the summer months, provide full-time care to a maximum of three additional children who are otherwise enrolled in school full-time, including the provider's own children, without an OEC approved assistant or substitute staff member present. *[Statute Section 19a-77 (a) (3) and Regulation Sections 19a-87b-5 (d) (1) (B)]*

YOUTH CAMP GUIDANCE

- **Youth Camp Licensing Waivers.**
 - **Extension of Operating Days.** Licensed youth camps may extend their operating days under the terms of their current license to operate during the period of the declared state of emergency provided such additional operating dates are reported to the OEC. A program may report such additional operating dates by submitting a General Report of Change form found on the OEC website. *[Statute Section 19a-420(1)]*
 - **Health and Immunization Records.** Health and immunization records on file that expire during the declared state of emergency are acceptable. Health and immunization records for children that have been attending a legally operating child care program or school that has been temporarily closed due to COVID 19 virus are not required provided the parent attests in writing that the child is up-to-date with physical examination and immunizations and provides information regarding any disabilities and/or special health care needs.
 - **Staff Training.** Staff training including first aid, CPR, C4K health and safety, and administration of medication training for youth camps that expire during the declared state of emergency will fulfill the training requirements.
 - **Staff Physicals.** Staff physicals for youth camps that expire during the declared state of emergency are acceptable.
- **Resident Camps,** as defined by 19a-420 (2) of the Connecticut General Statutes, will not be permitted to operate during the declared state of emergency unless and until permitted to do so by order of the Governor.
- **Day Camps Operating as of May 5, 2020.** Day camps operating as of May 5, 2020 may continue to operate and shall implement the guidelines below.
- **Day Camps May Open June 22, 2020.** Other day camps, not operating by May 5, 2020, may begin operation on June 22, 2020. Staff training may begin before June 22, 2020. As of June 22, 2020 all operating day camps shall comply with the guidelines below. All schools are encouraged to permit day camps to use their facilities, provided cleaning and modifications can be arranged.
- **Health Screenings.** All staff and children are required to be screened for any observable illness including cough or respiratory distress.
 - When conducting screenings, the program should consider the following:
 - Staff shall wash hands and wear face coverings.
 - Staff shall stand at least 6 feet away from the child and parent/guardian or stand behind a physical barrier, such as a glass or plastic window, or partition that can serve to protect the staff member's face and mucous membranes from respiratory droplets that may be produced if the child being screened sneezes, coughs, or talks.
 - Ask the parent/guardian to confirm that the child does not have a fever, shortness of breath, or cough.
 - Make a visual inspection of the child for signs of illness which could include flushed cheeks, rapid breathing or difficulty breathing (without recent physical activity), fatigue, or extreme fussiness.
- **Masks/Social Distancing/Workplace Safety.** Use of a mask or cloth face covering for each employee at all time while in the workplace is required per Executive Order 7BB.
 - Executive Order 7BB does not require the use of face masks by:
 - anyone for whom doing so would be contrary to his or her health or safety because of a medical condition;
 - a child in a child care setting;

- anyone under the age of 2 years, or an older child if the parent, guardian or person responsible for the child is unable to place the mask safely on the child's face.
 - Appropriate social distancing strategies shall be implemented. Social distancing is required, and may take many forms as outlined by the CDC. *[See OEC Memo # 18 for more information]*
 - Camps shall comply with the requirements listed in the Department of Economic Development Safe Workplace Rules for Essential Employees per Executive Order 7V.
- **Hand/Respiratory Hygiene/Enhanced Cleaning and Disinfection.** Regular hand washing by staff and children with soap and water for at least 20 seconds should be done:
 - Before coming in contact with any child;
 - Before and after eating;
 - After sneezing, coughing or nose blowing;
 - After using the rest room;
 - Before handling food;
 - After touching or cleaning surfaces that may be contaminated; and
 - After using any share equipment like toys, computer keyboards, mouse.
- If soap and water are not available, alcohol-based hand sanitizer shall be used. Use of alcohol-based hand sanitizers should always be supervised by adults.
- All staff shall cover coughs and sneezes with tissues or the corner of the elbow. Child shall be encouraged to cover coughs and sneezes with tissues or the corner of the elbow, and soiled tissues shall be disposed of immediately after use.
- Protocols for intensified cleaning and disinfection shall be implemented.
- **Group Size.** Group size shall be limited to no more than 14 children.
- **Reporting COVID-19 Cases Diagnosed in a Child or Staff Member.** If a child or staff member who has been present in the program is diagnosed with COVID-19, the camp must notify families and staff of the program about the exposure. The camp must report cases of COVID-19 infection immediately to the Connecticut Department of Public Health Epidemiology and Emerging Infection Program (860-509-7994) and the local department of health in the town of residence of the case-patient by telephone on the day of recognition or strong suspicion of the disease. Contact information for the local health department can be found at <https://portal.ct.gov/DPH/Local-Health-Admin/LHA/LocalHealth-Administration---Site-Map>
 - Contact your local health department or the CT Department of Public Health.
 - Determine the date of symptom onset for the child/staff member.
 - Determine if the child/staff member attended/worked at the program while symptomatic or during the two days before symptoms began.
 - Identify what days the child/staff member attended/worked during that time.
 - Determine who had close contact with the child/staff member at the program during those days (staff and other children)
 - Exclude the children and staff members who are determined to have had close contact with the affected child/staff member for 14 days after the last day they had contact with the affected child/staff member.
 - Conduct appropriate cleaning and disinfection:
 - Close off areas used by the person who is sick.
 - Open outside doors and windows to increase air circulation in the areas.
 - Wait up to 24 hours or as long as possible before cleaning or disinfecting to allow respiratory droplets to settle before cleaning and disinfecting.

- Clean and disinfect all areas used by the person who is sick, such as offices, bathrooms, and common areas.
 - If more than 7 days have passed since the person who is sick visited or used the facility, additional cleaning and disinfection is not necessary.
 - Continue routine cleaning and disinfection.
 - Depending on the size of the program and the number of people affected, closure of a particular room in the program (for larger programs) or the entire program might need to be considered.
- **Informed Consent.** Camps shall inform and obtain signed consent on the form posted on the OEC website from all staff and the parent(s) of all children enrolled that they have received notice of the following:
 - People who are 65 years and older and people of any age who have serious underlying medical conditions or are at higher risk for severe illness from COVID-19 are recommended to stay at home. A list of medical conditions associated with a higher risk of severe illness from COVID-19 can be found in CDC's guidance. 1 Individuals and families should consult their healthcare provider to determine whether they have medical conditions that place them at risk.
 - Staff and children living in households with individuals who are 65 years and older OR have higher risk for severe illness from COVID-19 are recommended to stay home.
- **Transportation.**
 - Prior to providing transportation at the start of the day to any child, such children shall be screened for any observable illness.
 - While transporting children in care, the current guidance regarding group size, the wearing of a mask or cloth face covering and social distancing apply.
 - The groups of children shall not mix while transporting. Camp planning may consist of neighborhood groupings to allow the same grouping of children throughout the entire camp day.
- **Pools.** Camp may contact their local health department/districts for direction regarding the use of pools during the camp season.
- **Fingerprints.** Executive Order NO. 7E included a provision suspending required fingerprinting. Accordingly, new prospective employees in youth camps that receive Care 4 Kids subsidy are not required to submit fingerprint cards for the purposes of criminal history records checks. When individuals are unable to access fingerprint collections services, the comprehensive background checks performed by the OEC are modified to remove fingerprint-supported state and national criminal history records checks for the duration of the declared state of emergency. Youth camps that receive Care 4 Kids subsidy will be required to submit a DCF Authorization form to the OEC for all staff members so that background checks based on name and date of birth may be completed. The submission of fingerprints at a later date may be required upon request by the OEC when the declared state of emergency ends. This modification applies to youth camps that receive Care 4 Kids subsidy. There is no current requirement to submit background checks through the OEC for youth camps that do not receive Care 4 Kids subsidy.
- **Licensing Fees.** Many camp licenses are due for renewal during the spring and the renewal fee is substantial. During this declared state of emergency, a camp may decide to delay the submission of their renewal application allowing their license to expire and then seek to reinstate such license if a decision to operate is made at a later date. Please note that it takes several days to process a

reinstatement application; however, an inspection is not required as part of the reinstatement process provided the camp operated at the same location within the past year.

- **Licensing Fee Refunds.** Youth camps that have submitted an application and fee to cover the 2020 summer season (June 22, 2020 through September 7, 2020) but then determine that the camp will not operate at all during the 2020 summer season, may submit a request from August 1, 2020 to August 31, 2020 for an application fee refund. Due to the fluid nature of this emergency, many camps have not yet made a decision or may modify a previously made decision on whether to operate. Therefore the OEC is asking that refund requests not be submitted before August 1, 2020. Such requests may be sent to Youthcamps@ct.gov and must include a statement that the camp has not and will not operate during the 2020 summer season. Such requests will be processed by the OEC after August 31, 2020.
- **Inspections of Licensed Youth Camps.** Licensing staff will be monitoring compliance with the enhanced requirements during inspections conducted this summer of youth camps under the oversight of OEC. Licensing staff will be taking additional protective measures during licensing visits. Licensing staff will wear a face covering for the entire visit and will be wearing gloves or will wash their hands or sanitize with alcohol-based hand sanitizer before the visit begins. Licensing staff will take all efforts to keep a six foot distance from others in the facility and minimize the length of the visit. The enhanced requirements that will be the focus of the visit include the following:
 - Health screening
 - Group sizes no greater than 14
 - Face masks or cloth coverings worn by all staff both inside and outside (unless they can maintain 6 ft distancing while outside)
 - Social distancing (e.g. groups of children are not coming within six feet of other groups, consistent staff, staggered lunches, staggered arrival and departure times)
 - Regular hand washing by staff and children with soap and water for at least 20 seconds at key times
 - All staff cover coughs and sneezes with tissues or the corner of the elbow and children are encouraged when appropriate to cover coughs and sneezes in the same manner
 - Soiled tissues are disposed immediately after use
 - Enhanced cleaning and disinfecting practices (e.g. between groups of children using common areas or equipment)
 - Entry into program is limited
 - Informed consent on file for all staff and parents
 - Transportation (i.e. group size, masks and social distancing)

This list of enhanced requirements may be increased or relaxed over time due to the fluid nature of this pandemic and on site monitoring will change accordingly.

STATE-FUNDED PROGRAMS WAIVERS AND MODIFICATIONS (Executive Order No. 7T)

- **Payments.** The OEC will continue funding all state-funded programs and settings (Child Day Care, Early Head Start-Child Care Partnerships, Even Start, School Readiness, Smart Start, State Head Start Supplement) at the full monthly allocation regardless of child attendance or program closure for the March 2020 reporting period.
- **Payments.** The OEC will waive all requirements related to the annual minimum operating schedules, due to COVID-19, thereby exceeding the maximum day of closure. *[Statute Section 10-16n to 10-16u]*

- **Reporting.** The OEC expects programs to continue to keep accurate records of the children in their care, their attendance, family fees collected, and staffing. However, the OEC will waive the requirement to enter information into OEC Registry or ECIS, and will not penalize programs for late submissions of monthly reports due to COVID-19. *[Statute Sections 10-16n to 10-16u]*
- **Quality Assurance Requirements.** The OEC will recognize any extensions communicated to the specific program by NAEYC or the Office of Head Start. The OEC is delaying the assignment and deployment of ERS raters for assessments due to COVID-19. *[Statute Sections 10-16n to 10-16u, 10-265n, 10-506]*
- **Quality Assurance Requirements.** The OEC will consider a certification that expires during the COVID-19 crisis as valid (until the declared state of emergency ends). Programs may wish to contact their training agency to ask about emergency extensions. *[Statute Sections 10-16n to 10-16u, 10-265n, 10-506]*
- **Qualified Staff Member (QSM).** The OEC expects programs to take all measures to ensure that children are receiving the best care possible, but recognizes that staffing will become impacted during this crisis. The OEC will temporarily waive QSM requirements due to COVID-19. *[Statute Sections 10-16n to 10-16u, 10-265n, 10-506]*

BIRTH TO THREE WAIVERS AND MODIFICATIONS

- **Waiving Family Cost Participation Fees.** Family Cost Participation fees starting with those due for March services that have not yet been billed are waived as are new suspensions of services related to the nonpayment of fees. (Executive Order No. 70)
- **General Administrative Payments.** Birth to Three programs will be paid the General Administrative Payment (GAP) for each child with an IFSP on the 1st of the month regardless of:
 - a. whether an Early Intervention Service is provided in the month; and
 - b. the number of hours planned on the Individual Family Service Plan (IFSP).
- **Expanded Definition of Children Eligible for Birth to Three Services.** “Eligible children” as defined in Section 17a-248 of the Connecticut General Statutes, is temporarily expanded to include children who turn older than thirty-six months of age on or after March 16, 2020, who are presently engaged in early intervention services and not already determined to be eligible for services under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Part B, to further supplement access to services during the period of school cancellations due to the COVID-19 pandemic. (Executive Order No. 7DD)

ADMINISTRATIVE HEARING WAIVERS AND MODIFICATIONS (Executive Order No. 7M)

Related to Care 4 Kids Hearings:

- The 60-day period within which a request for an administrative hearing must be made is extended to 90 days. *[Regulation Section 17b-749-21 (b) (2)]*
- The 30-day period within which the OEC must schedule administrative hearings is extended to 90 days. *[Regulation Section 17b-749-21 (f) (1)]*
- The 60-day period within which the Commissioner or her designee has to render a decision is extended to 90 days. *[Regulation Section 17b-749-21 (k) (1)]*
- The 45-day period within which an appellant must file an appeal with the Superior Court is extended to 90 days. *[Statute Sections 17b-61 and 4-183; and Regulation Section 17b-749-21 (n)]*

Related to Child Care Licensing:

- The 30-day period within which a licensee must request a hearing is extended to 90 days. *[Statutes Section 19a-84]*
- The 60-day period within which a hearing must be held is extended to 90 days. *[Statutes Section 19a-84]*
- The 45-day period within which a licensee must appeal to the Superior Court is extended to 90 days. *[Statutes Sections 19a-85 and 4-183]*
- The 30-day period within which a hearing must be requested regarding operation without a license is extended to 90 days. *[Statutes Section 19a-87 (b)]*

Format for Hearings and Correspondence:

- Hearings held during the declared state of emergency will be conducted telephonically or through a web-based platform.
- In all matters in which an appellant or licensee has provided an e-mail address, notices and correspondence will be delivered electronically.

CARE 4 KIDS TEMPORARY PROGRAM CHANGES (Executive Order No. 7T)

Redetermination

- When redetermination forms are submitted and the family is determined to be eligible, the redetermination will be processed to grant 12 months of eligibility. Regs., Conn. State Agencies § 17b-749-18 (b).
- Redeterminations submitted for eligibility effective March 1, 2020, April 1, 2020, and May 1, 2020, payment certificates will be extended for three months, except for redeterminations that are processed pursuant to the subsection above. Regs. Conn. State Agencies §§ 17b-749-09 (g)(4), 17b-749-14 (c)(4)(C), 17b-749-18 (b)(1).
- Redeterminations received in April or May that result in a determination of ineligible, will still receive an additional three months of payment eligibility, unless household income exceeds 85% of the SMI level or there is no child in the household. Regs., Conn. State Agencies § 17b-749-18 (b).

Job Loss

- If a parent reports losing their job due to COVID-19, they will remain eligible for Care 4 Kids through the end of their eligibility. Regs. Conn. State Agencies § 17b-749-04 (e).
- Family fee will be reduced based on household income and a new certificate will be issued for the remainder of the eligibility period. Regs., Conn. State Agencies § 17b-749-13 (f).

Provider

- The parent will not be responsible for the first 20 hours of care if they are using a new provider because their previous provider is closed due to COVID-19. Regs. Conn. State Agencies § 17b-749-16 (a) (5).
- Invoices will be processed and paid based on enrollment as submitted by providers and each month a reconciliation activity will be performed by issuing a manual payment to ensure providers are paid no less than the amount paid for March enrollments. Regs. Conn. State Agencies § 17b-749-15 (b) (1).
- Parents that are reporting a new provider, will have their previous certificate cancelled and a new one issued listing the new provider to ensure that no two providers are receiving payment for same child.
- If children are not in care with their provider, or an alternate temporary provider, and plan to resume care with the provider indicated on the Child Care Certificate, the following shall occur:
 - a. The certificate shall remain intact through the end of their eligibility period, or the end of the civil preparedness and public health emergencies in Connecticut, whichever is sooner; and

- b. Providers shall submit the actual charge (any amount, including \$0) for those children on their invoice.
- c. For redeterminations due in March, April or May, the changes outlined above shall be followed.
- There will not be a limit on the number of hours that may be approved for the same provider and/or an alternate temporary provider. Regs. Conn State Agencies § 17b-749-14 (a) (2), 17b-749-16 (a) (1), (2), (3), (5), (6), (8).

Home-based (licensed family child care and unlicensed relative) Health and Safety Orientation requirement:

- The health and safety in-person pre-service Provider Orientation Program (POP), and the completion of First Aid, CPR and Medication Administration certifications for all home-based providers will be waived until the end of declared emergency. C4K-POL-14-06 & C4K-POL-18-01.

Home-base providers will be required to complete these orientation and training requirements after the declared state of emergency has ended.

Fingerprint-based background checks:

- Care 4 Kids child care providers who are unable to access fingerprinting services for the purpose of any OEC background check shall not be required to submit fingerprints. Any such background check shall be processed without a fingerprint based criminal history records check. The submission of fingerprints will be required when the civil preparedness and public health emergencies in Connecticut are no longer in effect. Regs., Conn. State Agencies § 17b-749-12 (e).

COVID-19 bonus pay:

- Bonus income paid to essential workers for working during the civil preparedness and public health emergency shall not be included as countable income, unless the bonus income would cause the family to exceed 85% of the State Median Income level.