

COVID-19 Waivers

The Commissioner of the Office of Early Childhood has temporarily waived the below requirements in accordance with the Governor's Executive Order No. 7B during the COVID-19 Pandemic. The below waivers are effective for the duration of the declared state of emergency but do not extend beyond the period of the declared state of emergency.

- 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 *[Statute Section 19a-420(1)]*
- 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 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]*
- 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 requirements for licensed child care centers and group child care homes have been waived *[Regulation Section 19a-79-4a(c)(1)]*
- 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)]*
- 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 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)]*
- 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 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 for family child care homes that expire during the declared state of emergency are acceptable *[Regulation Section 19a-87b-9(n)]*
- 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)]*

- 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.]*
- 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 which are due to be performed during the declared state of emergency may be conducted and will be prioritized after the declared state of emergency has ended. *[Statute Section 19a-80 (b) (3), 19a-87b (a) and 19a-426]*