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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, REVISED July 28, 2020, REVISED Sept. 8, 2020
REVISED September 21, 2020 REVISED December 22, 2020 **REVISED January 7, 2021**

TO: Providers of Services to Young Children

FROM: Beth Bye, Commissioner

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

It is important that providers of services to young children, including **child care and youth camp personnel, OEC funded Home Visiting providers and Birth to Three 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, focused on high-risk populations, those with symptoms or exposure, and those who are directed by their primary care physician to obtain a test. This comprehensive information is available at <https://portal.ct.gov/Coronavirus/Covid-19-Knowledge-Base/COVID-19-Testing>. Start by reviewing this site for guidance.

When to Get Tested

- Any child care or youth camp staff member, OEC funded Home Visiting provider or Birth to Three provider who experiences symptoms should contact their primary care provider, if they have one, and seek testing. Many testing sites can provide an order for the test on-site.
- Anyone with a known exposure to someone with documented COVID-19 should be tested, and should quarantine for 14 days. Close contact is defined as having spent at least 15 minutes over a 24 hour period within 6 feet of someone who has tested positive for COVID-19. Mask wearing does not play a role in the identification of close contacts. According to CDC Guidelines on [Options to Reduce Quarantine](#) and the State's [Interim Guidance on the Length of Quarantine for Contacts of Persons with SARS-CoV-2 Infection](#), a reduced quarantine period may be possible if individuals meet specific criteria.
- Current guidance calls for testing of asymptomatic adults in communities at high risk for COVID-19 or certain high risk congregate settings. The State's testing program also offers free testing in the Connecticut cities that saw high incidence of COVID-19 in the Spring of 2020.

How to Get a Test

- **Priority testing lines for Child Care and Youth Camp Providers, OEC funded Home Visiting and Birth to Three providers are available** at several locations throughout the state. Those who need to locate a site can visit ct.gov/PriorityWorkforceTest. Details about the process for priority access are available through each testing partner's listing and website.
 - While state supported testing sites do not generally require those getting tested to provide an ID – those seeking this priority testing should expect to bring identification from their workplace such as an ID badge, payroll stub, or business card.

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- For all other testing options, go to the following site to access free testing at one of more than 100 sites in Connecticut. ct.gov/prioritytesting
- A primary care provider can order a COVID-19 test for an individual in their community. The primary care provider can also monitor the individual's symptoms and virus if the test is positive.

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

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

We thank you for your help to ensure a healthy and safe experience in child care and youth camps.