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STATE OF CONNECTICUT

OFFICE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD



Connecticut Office of
Early Childhood

Beth Bye
Commissioner

DATE: May 7, 2021

TO: Providers of Services to Young Children

FROM: Beth Bye, Commissioner

RE: Cononavirus Memo 40
Reduced requirements; Expiration of memos #1, 2, 3, 5, 11, 12, 13, 16, 19, and 20

As public health restrictions are gradually lifted under the guidance of the Governor's Office and the Department of Public Health, the Office of Early Childhood is beginning to remove requirements on child care providers. It is important to note that while requirements may be lifted, **the OEC strongly recommends that providers continue their efforts to implement public health policies and procedures consistent with CDC recommendations**, to ensure the continued safe operation of programs serving young children.

The OEC does not have the legal authority to continue to waive standards or implement increased requirements beyond the date the state of emergency ends. Given this, and the fact that rate of infection continues to decline, effective May 20, 2021 the following COVID-19 *enhanced requirements* for child care and youth camp programs will no longer be required but are strongly recommended:

- Group Size/Cohorting
- Enhanced Cleaning and Disinfection
- Health Screening
- Hand and Respiratory Hygiene
- Social Distancing

All of the above requirements are important mitigation strategies that limit the spread of the COVID-19 virus and providers should carefully consider the benefits of these mitigation strategies before removing. Important public health guidance from the [CDC](#), [DPH](#), [OEC](#) and other official sources continues to inform the strategies providers should implement to protect the health of children, staff and families. This guidance includes topics such as group size, cleaning and sanitizing, and hand hygiene. The OEC strongly recommends that programs continue to limit group sizes and be aware of the risks of larger cohorts. By maintaining smaller cohorts, programs will reduce the number of individuals who may need to quarantine should a COVID-19 case be identified.

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Mask wearing continues to be required indoors and outdoors. Mask requirements for children in child care and youth camp programs can be found in [OEC Memo No. 29](#). Mask requirements for adults in child care and youth camp programs are found in [Memo 6](#) and in Connecticut's [Sector Rules for Reopen](#).

The OEC is making efforts to align practices and documents with these changes. [OEC Memos](#) #1, 2, 3, 5, 11, 12, 13, 16, 19, and 20 are no longer in effect. The OEC child care and youth camp guides will be updated to reflect recommendations versus requirements and will be maintained for the period of time deemed appropriate. Similarly, programs should continue to align their policies with these changes. And finally, as rate of infection continues to decline, the OEC will be resuming routine, full inspections of licensed child care programs to ensure that regulated health and safety practices are implemented.