State of New Hampshire
Department of Health and Human Services

COVID-19 Update for the Child Care Community

We will begin promptly at 1:00pm
Hello! And a few Logistics

Everyone is muted so we can all hear well.

We will be recording the call.
Hello! And a few Logistics

To get professional development hours for today’s call:

- If you are on a computer, write the name of your program and your full name(s) in the Zoom Chat 🤷‍♂️

- If you are participating by phone, send an email to CCLUOffice@dhhs.nh.gov with the name of your program and your full name(s)
Hello! And a few Logistics

To ask questions, make comments or share your ideas:

• If you are on a computer, use the Zoom Chat 📤

• If you are participating by phone, send an email to CCLUOffice@dhhs.nh.gov
This PowerPoint, the recording of the call and the chat will be posted at:

nh.childcareaware.org
State of New Hampshire
Department of Health and Human Services

COVID-19 Update for the Child Care Community

Monday March 23, 2020
1:00pm to 2:00pm
State of New Hampshire
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Agenda

1. Welcome and Purpose
2. Coordination and Support
3. Actions Taken
4. Proposal for your Input
5. Points of Contact
6. Q&A [use Zoom Chat or email CCLUOffice@dhhs.nh.gov]
7. Summary and Next Steps
Welcome and Purpose
Today’s Speakers (in order) are:

Jackie Cowell  
Early Learning NH

Chris Tappan  
NH DHHS

Christine Brennan  
NH Dept. of Education

Chris Santaniello  
NH DHHS

Debra Nelson  
NH DHHS

Melissa Clement  
NH DHHS

Marti Ilg

Tracy Pond  
Child Care Aware of NH
Coordination and Support

- All hands are on deck
- Thinking of and creating out-of-the-box solutions
- Child Care Emergency Response Solutions Team
- CCDF support for Emergency Responder’s and Health Care Provider’s child care needs
Current State of Child Care in NH

What we know about opened/closed programs:
- Program closures: 218 programs
  - 171 contacted
- Open programs: 190
  - 66 are willing to provide emergency child care
- 2 have re-opened

What we are hearing from the field
- The challenges are many
- The needs are varied
ACTIONS TAKEN
Actions Taken

• **No-interest loans for small businesses**

• **Unemployment:** Individuals who are unable to work or have reduced hours due to the COVID-19 pandemic will have immediate access to unemployment benefits
  o Benefits paid will be charged to the unemployment compensation trust fund rather than to the employer’s account
  o The employees of nonprofits that have not been paying unemployment can still make a claim, which will also not be charged to the employer

• **Federal:**
  • Governor’s request to Secretary Azar of US HHS for potential open-enrollment period for 60-90 days

• Potential Stimulus Package from US Congress
Actions Taken

Child Care and Development Fund Emergency Policies (continued)

• “Disaster” billing
• Redetermination for family eligibility suspended
• Automatic extensions:
  • Program quality rating designation
  • Provider credential renewals
• Expedited enrollment:
  • License-Exempt providers
  • Health care/essential services providers’ children (“special category”)
• Waivers to permit more children in license-exempt care, as staffing/safety allow
• Full-time billing for eligible children in afterschool care as of March 17
• Support for Child Care Aware of NH to take action
• Ongoing updates to child care community
• Additional possibilities? Stay tuned!
Team 2 Employer Child Care

Approved: 7

- Capacity range from 6-28 children
- School age only – 4
- Preschool and older - 1
- Infants included – 2

Pending: 9

- With State Fire Marshall for approval – 2
- Waiting on additional information or preliminary inquiries - 7
The Child Care Licensing Unit developed 2 teams to rapidly respond to waivers and employer child care requests, consistent with Governor Sununu’s Executive Order 2020-04.

Team 1 Waivers

Requested: 17  Withdrawn: 7 – no longer needed
Pending: 4 – waiting on additional information

Approved: 6

- Increase the age on the license to accept school age children (2)
- Increase room capacity, but not overall capacity (3)
- Allow staff to work with expired CPR certifications as the recertification class was cancelled (1)
- Waiting on additional information or preliminary inquiries - 7
Actions Taken

- **K-12 system**: Transitioned to Remote Instruction until 4/3/2020
- **School coordination**: Special education services (in small cohorts) and delivering lunches through meal program
- **Space**: K-12 elementary, middle and high schools (including 15 CTE centers which already house early learning centers) may be used for Essential Emergency Child Care
- **Workforce**:
  - Unutilized or underutilized part-time or para educators that are not otherwise deployed by school districts
  - High school students who have participated in CTE programming in early learning, LNA or other related programs
  - Displaced college students
Child Care and Development Fund Emergency Policy Proposal

• We want your input on an idea: Emergency Child Care Partner Stipend

  • Support to partner with the state to match urgent child care needs during the emergency (time TBD) with your space available

  • Support as a pay differential – calculated at an extra $3/hour per staff member - estimated total of $1,200/week if your site has 15 staff working

  • Funding estimated to be able to designate about 125 providers/programs

  • Selection criteria likely to include geographic distribution/ages of children served
Questions about the Action Proposed

- How might this proposal benefit your program?
- How might it benefit your staff?
- What concerns do you have about the proposal?
- Please give us any of your additional thoughts or recommendations about this proposal.
POINTS OF CONTACT
Points of Contact

• Continually updated FAQs posted at http://nh.childcareaware.org
• Message templates to give to parents and staff?
• Matching urgent child care needs with open programs?
• Matching personnel and volunteer needs, including new health or cleaning staff needs, in partnership with Granite United Way, Volunteer NH, etc.?
• Matching supplies and other needs
• Guidance on how to stay open
• Guidance on how to re-open
• Hotline? To ask questions, make comments and share ideas not related to health
Points of Contact

Bureau of Child Development and Head Start Collaboration

- Support to set up emergency child care:
  
  Dianne Chase: Dianne.Chase@dhhs.nh.gov; 271-7190

- License-exempt provider enrollment:
  
  Marlene Burton: Marlene.Burton@dhhs.nh.gov; 271-4228

- CCDF policy/waivers:
  
  Debra Nelson: Debra.Nelson@dhhs.nh.gov; 271-8153

- Provider billing/payment: 271-2175/271-4242 voice only
Q: If I want to care for more children in my licensed program, what do I need to do?

Send your request to CCLUOffice@dhhs.nh.gov including the name of your program, town, and details of what you are requesting, such as increasing program capacity, room capacities, and if staff to child ratios will be maintained.

Q: What is the process for an employer to open an emergency child care for their staff?

Send your request to ccluoffice@dhhs.nh.gov, including employer, town, and you will be contacted directly for more information.

The Child Care Licensing Unit is coordinating with the State Fire Marshall’s Office on these requests, consistent with Governor Sununu’s Executive Order 2020-04.

The quickest way to have your request reviewed and to begin the process is by emailing the address above; however if you wish to speak to someone call 603-271-9025 and we will return your call as soon as possible.

Other contacts:
- Toll Free Number (800) 852-3345, ext. 9025
- TDD Access Relay (800) 735-2964
- Fax Number (603) 271-4782
Points of Contact

COVID-19 Health

- Dial 2-1-1 for help, support and information relative to COVID-19
State of New Hampshire
Department of Health and Human Services

Questions & Answers

**NOTE:** Use Zoom Chat to ask a question, make a comment or share an idea. If on a phone, email CCLUOffice@dhhs.nh.gov
Summary and Next Steps

• Today we shared high-level information on:
  • Status of child care
  • What we are hearing from you/the field
  • Our actions to date in support of child care from the Governor’s office and DHHS policy changes to our response teams and communication strategies

• Going forward we will continue to:
  • Share up-to-date information
  • Explore different options for support
  • Coordinate/leverage federal, state and local resources (public/private)
  • Be there for you