

Getting the Information and Resources You Need for Child Care Recovery and Stabilization

Updates: DEHS, PH, CCLU, BCDHSC, CCAoNH

Chat Box Q & A

July 9, 2020

General

1. Supply need; where can I buy, I cannot find disinfecting products. Any suggestions on this?
 - a. The NH Child Care Supply Project has one remaining shipment pending. The shipment will include gloves, anti-bacterial cleaning wipes, and toilet paper and paper towels. It is projected to arrive before mid-July. As with the previous shipments, a three day pick up event will be scheduled and communicated to providers as soon as the shipment is in. We have had to relocate our storage and distribution center for this final allocation. Supplies are now being stored and distributed from the Surplus Food Storage Facility, Located on Hill Ave in Concord. In the near future, the BCDHSC will provide tips/suggestions for obtaining supplies based on our experience with the supply project.

PH - Patricia Tilley

1. How about get-togethers (e.g., birthday parties, graduations, etc.)? Parents in programs are asking frequently.
 - a. Continuing to recommend social distancing as much as possible. There is no specific recommendation to quarantine for 14 days if you have attended an event. Inform families of mask covering guidance.
2. To clarify, you recommend a room with 10 max, you can have a room with 12 people total?
 - a. Child Care programs should, whenever possible, reduce group sizes to no more than 10 people total, including children and adults. Small cohorts are protective for the children, your staff, and your facility.
3. What is considered close contact in regards to exposure? If a teacher/child in one classroom were confirmed positive and one child in the classrooms has a sibling in another classroom would the secondary class room be considered exposed as well?
 - a. Typically no, in this specific situation. We would have to know more details to give a definitive answer. We encourage you to call the Bureau of Infectious Disease for more guidance and specifics.
 - b. For COVID-19, a close contact is defined by CDC as any individual who was within 6 feet of an infected person for at least 15 minutes starting from 2 days before

illness onset (or for asymptomatic patients, 2 days prior to positive specimen collection) until the time the patient is isolated.

4. Do we anticipate changes to the child care regulations for the fall? As we are planning for the fall, we need to know if the child care groups will remain at 10 or if there will be changes to this so that we can plan appropriately. If the changes are made, when will we know this?
 - a. It is unclear when new guidance will be made available. We will work with DEHS and Child Care Aware to make sure you are notified if/when the guidance changes.
 - b. It is likely that we will continue to advocate for small cohorts as long as there is community transmission.
5. If a teacher has to go into quarantine for 14 days after travel, are they able to get unemployment benefits?
 - a. WAITING ON ANSWER
6. Is there an estimate as to how long groups of 10 will be a recommendation?
 - a. See Question 4
7. The symptoms of COVID have similar symptoms to a common cold, allergies, and other common things that children have that we normally allow to stay in center. Since we send them home normally, should we continue to do this with scare of COVID? Are we supposed to close the room because a child has one of these symptoms?
 - a. Symptomatic persons should be instructed to contact their health care provider to be tested for COVID-19 and self-isolate at home.
 - b. Any person that develops symptoms of COVID-19 while at the child care facility should be masked if they are over 2 years of age, removed from contact with others and be immediately sent home.
8. You commented that even if someone tests negative but is showing symptoms they should quarantine for 14 days. We have a few children with a fever over 100.4. Should they still quarantine even if the fever goes away that day and they are out for at least 72 hours?
 - a. Person(s) with suspect or confirmed COVID-19 must stay out of child care until symptom-based criteria are met for discontinuation of isolation:
 - i. At least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared.
 - ii. At least 3 days (72 hours) have passed since recovery (recovery is defined as resolution of fever off any fever reducing medication plus improvement of other symptoms).
 - iii. If you have specific questions or need guidance, please call, 603-271-4496.
9. I have had a lot of calls for new families wanting to enroll. In the guidelines we aren't supposed to let visitors in etc. Thoughts on this please?
 - a. The guidance states that you should restrict non-essential visitors, volunteers, and activities involving other groups.

- b. There are opportunities to welcome potential new families after hours or through other forms of technology.
 - c. Encourage everyone to wear a face coverings as appropriate.
10. Can you tell us what is happening with new cases in nursing homes in Coos County?
- a. There are currently only 4 cases of COVID-19 in Coos County. Please check out the data on: <https://www.nh.gov/covid19/dashboard/summary.htm>.

CCLU - Melissa Clement

- 1. What about renewals of background checks? Several of us expire this September.
 - a. Answered during webinar (see recording/chat).
- 2. Do you need a waiver if a staff member has completed on-line and has a scheduled in-person skills test scheduled but it has not occurred yet?
 - a. Answered during webinar (see recording/ chat).
- 3. As far as our eligibility card, if you are grandfathered into a certain date I know there is a stipulation that you need to work at least 1 day within 6 months in order to keep that current. Has this changed due to COVID if you are not able to work in a program?
 - a. Eligibility card: Anyone working for the same employed as they were prior to 10/1/17, when next renewing their background check, is exempt from applying for an eligibility card as specified in the rule under 4002.04 (q)(2).

BCDHSC - Debra Nelson and Dianne Chase

- 1. I did not include grantor information because it was not provided, is that a problem? If so what do I do?
 - a. If you are referring to the information on your other funding sources then you will not be disqualified from Round 2 funding for this reason. The most important information is the amount of funding you received for different purposes, not necessarily which organization provided it. As we further review programs' financials, we will reach out with any questions and clarifications we need.
 - b. If you are referring to the Grantor information on the Provider Agreement, we will put that information in the document. You must complete the Award Amount, Your Program Name, Address, Your name, signature and printed name, plus initial each page.
- 2. Can funding be used for self-care expenses? Self-care was part of initial request. Can it be used for hiring a part time helper? What expenses can it be used for?
 - a. Yes for part time helper, but make sure it is COVID-19 related and not personal. For example, if you are family child care provider hiring a helper so you can spend time with your children, that is not a COVID-19-related expense. However, if you are hiring a helper to assist you with cleaning while you are teaching or

vice versa, that is acceptable. Acceptable expenses will be addressed in our future webinars, but the question to ask is whether the expense is directly related to COVID-19. Examples of acceptable/COVID-related self-care expenses include professional development on self-care or supporting children experiencing trauma and stress related to COVID-19, adjusting schedules to give staff more break time during their work hours, or providing staff with access to trauma-related mental health services after losing a child or colleague to COVID-19. Unfortunately, things like chair massages or pizza lunches are not permissible expenses under the CARES Act. If you have questions as to whether a specific self-care expense is allowable, please contact the Bureau.

3. What if you have not heard about your status? When do you expect those remaining programs to be notified they need to submit more information?
 - a. By Friday, July 17, all programs should have been notified. While some are still working on issues, funded and not funded programs should have received correspondence. If not, please contact Dianne Chase immediately at eccp@dhhs.nh.gov. Please make sure we have your correct email where you want us to send the response. In 22 cases, award notifications were held up because applicants provided incorrect email addresses.
4. The first 60% payment: Is that for the base rate only or does it include 60% of the children?
 - a. The payment is for 60% of your total Round 1 award, which includes both the base rate and the number of children. For example, if your award was \$15,000 (\$10,000 for the base rate and then 25 children x \$200) then your first invoice would be for \$9,000 (60% of \$15,000). If you are a summer only program, you can bill 100%.
5. If we think our award is incorrect based on the formula, should we wait for clarification before signing anything and sending it in?
 - a. Yes, please email us right away at eccp@dhhs.nh.gov so that we can resolve this. In the subject line of the email, please write "To Dianne Chase re incorrect award amount" and include a reason for the discrepancy in your email. For example, "My award was for 20 children, but my license capacity was recently increased to 30." She will review your email and get back to you with questions or a new award letter. She is working on those requests beginning on Tuesday, July 14. If it is a licensing issue, please include a copy of the license or documentation to back up the request. It makes it much easier and quicker to complete the review.
6. Is there a chance that awards that have already been communicated could go down?

- a. The only circumstances for which it is possible for an award to be decreased once we send the award letter are: 1) The program informs us they closed or are closing; or 2) The program informs us they don't need/want the entire award amount due to tax purposes or other reasons and we mutually agree to reduce the award. We will not ask that any funds be returned to us that have already been billed and were used for COVID-related costs.
7. Where do we find the invoices?
 - a. Once you return your completed and signed program agreement and self-attestation to us, we will email you the invoices along with lengthy instructions.
8. How much funding is available in round 2 of funding?
 - a. It depends on the total amount of funds awarded in Round 1, as well as on how much of the Round 1 funds are actually accepted. At this time, we anticipate having approximately \$5 million for Round 2 awards to programs.
9. Once forms are signed and returned, what is the time frame for invoices/ funds to be received?
 - a. The plan is to distribute invoices within 3 to 5 business days of receiving the signed agreement and self-attestation. The goal is to have invoices to all programs approved for funding by Friday, July 17, if not before.
10. How is the Council for Thriving Children utilizing this information, and will this be made public?
 - a. Non-identifying, aggregated data from the CCRSP will be shared with the Council to inform its work, help guide policy decisions and secure additional funding and resources. GOFERR's standard practice for all CARES Act funding is to publish the name of each program/organization receiving an award and the amount of the award.
11. If a program is DOE, early childhood, and after school, but does have active status on the DHHS website, can they get funding? Don't they have care options available?
 - a. Yes, DOE-approved early childhood and afterschool programs are eligible for CCRSP funds. The funding does not cover all students, however--just those in early childhood and afterschool programming.
12. Can the funds be used for income/revenue lost in March, April, etc.?
 - a. Yes, but it needs to be weighed against any income you received including, but not limited to PPP funds, business interruption insurance, child care scholarship funds, etc.

13. Can we use the funds if our playground needs to be updated in order to have two classrooms out at once and remain separated?
 - a. Yes, if the modifications are COVID-19 related and not part of your ongoing annual maintenance.

14. Is documentation of the use of Round 1 required? Or is that just for any additional funding?
 - a. Yes, documentation of the use of Round 1 funds will be required. We will address the specifics in upcoming webinars, but you must have on hand documents showing how you used the funds in the event that the State or Federal auditors conduct an audit of your program. In addition, you will want that information for your tax filings. You will need to discuss how you spent the funds in your final report. We will be providing a template soon to help programs with documenting their expenses.

15. Can you use funds for income lost now weekly in order to pay staff insurance and other bills such as electric?
 - a. Yes, but you would indicate that your regular income is X dollars per week, but due to the reduced number of children in your care, it is now Y. That would be your income loss. What you do with the funds is based on your program's budget. The justification is the income loss.