Guidance for Continued Operations During Covid-19

Effective June 11, 2020, all Maryland licensed/registered child care programs are able to provide child care services. These programs must agree to abide by child care regulations and guidelines established in conjunction with the Maryland State Health Department regarding the CORONA-19 virus.

All child care centers, LOC’s, and Large Family Homes are required to submit a current personnel list and staffing pattern to their Licensing Specialist by July 13, 2020. Regulations require that these forms are updated as staff are added/deleted.

The Office of Child Care has agreed to the following modifications to Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR) until further notice:

1. For children ages 3 and older, there must be one qualified teacher for each group of 14 children as long as square footage and toys and equipment requirements are met. Ratios for children age 2 and under remain the same.
2. Variance requests may be made for teacher qualifications, however, each group of children, including those with relaxed ratio requirements must have a qualified staff person.
3. Center staff who have not had a medical in the last 5 years are required to have a new medical based on regulations approved in January, 2020. These staff have until December 31, 2020 to submit the new medical report to their Licensing Specialist.
4. Health and Safety Training is a free on-line course and no extension has been granted for this requirement. It is recommended that continued training requirements be met as soon as possible but must be completed by December 31, 2020. First aid/ CPR courses are in-person classes. If staff are unable to obtain this class, please contact your regional office for guidance.
5. Licensing staff continue to inspect programs virtually. Programs will be notified when in-person inspections resume.
6. Children entering care for the first time or re-enrolling into child care programs must have immunization records which meet the guidelines of the Maryland Department of Health. Each child must have at least one dose of each vaccine appropriate for the child’s age and a schedule to complete required immunizations.

Your Licensing Specialist is available for guidance regarding these changes. Thank you.