



## **SUMMARY: COVID-19 GUIDANCE FOR CHILDCARE**

### **March 17, 2020**

The California Department of Education (CDE) is urging districts that are closed to help families find childcare. In addition, the CDE recommends that districts consider providing temporary childcare on school sites or partnering with other local agencies to help families find childcare programs that are still open.

CDE recommends that districts inform families that they can call the **statewide consumer education hotline at 1-800-KIDS-793** or go to the website at <https://rrnetwork.org/> and <https://rrnetwork.org/family-services/find-child-care> for childcare referrals.

### **Guidance for Local Educational Agencies (LEAs) Providing Supervision of Children**

- Follow the [Prevention and Precaution Guidance](#) related to COVID-19 as described in the bulletin released by the California Department of Public Health and California Department of Education.
- Obtain email addresses, and home, work and mobile phone numbers from parents and guardians of children at the facility and ensure that communication is provided in the primary language of parents and guardians.
- Provide parents and guardians with information from the Center for Disease Control (CDC) on COVID-19 symptoms, transmission, prevention, and when to seek medical attention. Communicate that children should stay home if they are sick or have been in contact with a person who has tested positive for coronavirus.
- Recommend that parents and guardians help screen their children for flu symptoms.

### **Waivers of Licensing Standards for Childcare Providers during COVID-19**

Pursuant to the Governor's Proclamation of a State of Emergency, the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) is announcing a statewide waiver for Childcare facility and Family, Friend and Neighbor (FFN) licensing requirements. Facilities or providers do not need prior approval from CDSS to implement the following waivers:

- Normal staff to child ratios are waived as long as health and safety is maintained. Staff to child ratios shall not exceed 10:1.
- Capacity limits are waived for childcare centers and family childcare homes:
  - A childcare center may waive capacity requirements, as long as staffing remains sufficient to meet the health and safety needs of children in care.
  - Capacity for small family childcare homes shall not exceed 14 children.
  - A FFN provider may care for the children of more than one family as long as the ratio does not exceed 10 children to one provider.

- New staff may begin work immediately upon submitting a request to transfer an existing criminal background check and child abuse clearance or upon submission of proof of both a criminal record clearance and child abuse clearance from a school district, state, or local government agency.
- New staff may start working immediately if they submit proof of a TB clearance and first aid training.
- The childcare provider or FFN shall immediately notify their Childcare Regional Office in writing when implementing a waiver, and a childcare provider shall post this waiver in a public location within the facility.

### **Subsidized Childcare Programs**

Senate Bill (SB) 117 allows the State Superintendent to waive certain attendance and reporting requirements in order to allow subsidized programs to continue to receive state reimbursements during the COVID-19 epidemic.

***For more information, visit the California Department of Education: [“New COVID-19 Guidance for K-12 Schools”](#)***