Ending the Modifications to Certified Child Care Center Requirements

The following modifications end on July 1, 2021 (end of the peacetime emergency):

1. The certified child care center must follow the minimum staff-to-child ratios and maximum group size limitations as specified in Minnesota Statutes, 245H.08. However, based on recommendations from the Minnesota Department of Health and the Centers for Disease Control to limit group activities and maintain social distancing, centers are strongly encouraged to limit group sizes to no more than ten people total, including children and adults. If a center chooses to keep group sizes to less than 10 individuals, it does not mean that only 10 individuals can be in a room. However, centers are encouraged to separate into groups of 10 or fewer and respect social distancing recommendations.

2. During this pandemic, child care providers face a rapidly changing situation which makes it challenging to remain in compliance with all of the usual licensing standards. The child care center must have staff review guidance from the Minnesota Department of Health and the Centers for Disease Control for child care providers on health and safety practices that prevent the spread of COVID-19 in a child care environment, and make decisions based on their particular child care program in light of this guidance. This is an ongoing requirement, as the guidance will evolve as the understanding of the COVID-19 virus and how to prevent it evolves. DHS will communicate current guidance and any updated guidance to providers via email and on the DHS website.

3. To the extent that MDH/CDC guidance is inconsistent with a certification standard, centers are permitted to deviate from certification requirements to the extent necessary to follow the MDH/CDC guidance. Centers must document any changes they make to policies or programming. For example, a center may deviate from their current policy to allow parents to visit the center at any time by requiring parents to remain in the entryway at drop off time rather than walking their children to their classroom to minimize the risk of spreading the virus.

The following modifications will end on August 30, 2021 (60 days after the end of the peacetime emergency):

1. At least one staff person who has had first aid training and one staff person who has had CPR training in the last three years must be present at all times when children are present in the center. Online training and testing will be accepted during the peacetime emergency when necessary to meet this requirement if pediatric first aid and/or CPR training are not available. This change provides additional flexibility by permitting individuals to work with children before the training is completed.

2. Immunization records must be obtained within 30 days of child’s first date of attendance. This provides additional flexibility for certified child care centers by giving them additional time to obtain immunization records which currently must be obtained by the child’s first day of attendance.
Reminder: the following modification ended on December 31, 2020

Extending training timelines for existing staff and license holders that expire during the declared peacetime emergency and cannot be met.