

## All licensed and certified services

In March 2020, the commissioner suspended or modified specific routine licensing activities and requirements so that essential services could continue during the COVID-19 pandemic. In May 2020, the commissioner extended and amended some of these modifications until June 30. On July 1, the commissioner amended this decision now that Minnesota’s “stay-at-home” orders have been lifted and providers have been required to develop a COVID-19 Preparedness Plan.

The revised modifications allow state, county and private placing agency licensors to continue to conduct licensing visits in a manner that mitigates the spread of COVID-19 and recognizes the daily challenges providers continue to face that impact their ability to operate in full compliance with all applicable rules and standards. These changes are effective July 1 through the end of the COVID-19 peacetime emergency.

The ongoing modifications include the following:

1. DHS, county and private agency licensors may conduct licensing activities using remote technologies when necessary to support social distancing and community mitigation. Additionally, DHS, county licensors and private placing agencies may continue to waive the statutory requirement to conduct **unannounced** annual licensing visits for licensed child care programs that are not in response to complaint investigations. (Minn. Stat. §§ 245A.04, 245A.16)
2. DHS, county and private agency licensors will continue to communicate with and provide technical assistance to providers to the greatest extent possible using remote technologies that support social distancing and community mitigation. (Minn. Stat. §§ 245A.04, 245A.16)
3. DHS, county and private agency licensors will continue to provide corrective action that reflects the provider’s operation during the pandemic. (Minn. Stat. §§ 245A.06)
4. Licenses for family child care, child and adult foster care, and community residential settings that are set to expire through the COVID-19 peacetime emergency will be automatically extended for three additional months. (Minn. Stat. §§ 245A.04, 245A.16)
5. Training timelines for existing staff and license holders that expire during the COVID-19 peacetime emergency and cannot be met will be extended. (Minn. Stat. § 245A)

County licensing agencies and private placing agencies are expected to comply with these modified licensing enforcement requirements. (Minn. Stat. §§ 245A.16) Changes to licensing standards for individual license types remain in effect through the COVID-19 peacetime emergency or until the date or timeline otherwise allowed by

law. These changes are posted on the DHS [COVID-19 website](#) and the [Licensing website](#). License holders should contact their licensor if they need to request a variance to other standards.