

Child Care Provider Call: Monday October 12th 7 PM

Welcome

Erin welcomed Department of Employment and Economic Development Commissioner Steve Grove.

Commissioner Grove provided a welcome expressing his personal and professional gratitude for child care providers across the state and their role in a safe reopening of Minnesota.

Department of Labor and Industry

Erin welcomed Department of Labor and Industry (DLI) Assistant Commissioner Nicole Blissenbach.

AC Blissenbach shared her gratitude for child care providers, an overview of the agency including MN OSHA which has received many questions during this pandemic regarding the health and safety of workers including those in child care settings. DLI will be working the Children's Cabinet, cross-agency partners in the state and federally to provide a webinar on Family First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA).

Question: Can staff who are home on paid quarantine work from remotely if they have all of the necessary resources to perform their job duties?

Response: Yes

Department of Health

Denise Herrmann from the Minnesota Department of Health shared the current case numbers in child care and [COVID-19 situation](#) in general for Minnesota.

Question: Are the COVID-19 cases associated with family child care settings being collected and shared publicly?

Response: Yes and the data is not public due privacy protections and the size of the setting.

Question: If a parent of one of the children in my care just tested positive for COVID-19, how long does the child need to be excluded from daycare?

Response: Household contacts stay home and quarantine from all activities for at least 14 days.

Question: COVID-19 testing is prioritized for child care and educators. Will the state be prioritizing rapid testing for educators and include childcare providers and our families as we see additional cases? What affects testing result wait times?

Response: Child care providers are prioritized for testing but each health care provider or clinic has different laboratory systems and testing capabilities. Some complete the test themselves, some send out for testing, and these variabilities impact the capacity and speed of receiving test results.

Question: With the weather is changing in Minnesota, should providers still be spraying everything with cleaning solutions, even if it is below freezing?

Response: There isn't any current research, but it is reasonable to assume that when we have cold weather below freezing or when children are wearing mittens there is not the same need to clean play structures. As always it is important to wash hands before and after playing outside.

Saliva Testing for Child Care Providers

Earlier this summer, the Walz-Flanagan Administration announced a commitment to providing access to COVID-19 testing for Minnesotans working in-person in child care and preK-12 schools. A saliva test was provided free of charge to all staff in licensed child care settings. The goal of this test is to provide a back-up option when staff may have been exposed to COVID-19 due to work and they are not able to access timely testing in the community. This testing program will be **available through 2020**.

While many Minnesotans can access testing through their primary care provider or community testing sites in their community, this process will allow an additional option when individuals working in licensed child care settings are exposed to COVID-19 and unable to access testing. These tests are **not** required to continue working. Rather, it provides an opportunity for child care providers to request a saliva test to complete in their home guided by a medical practitioner when it is needed. For example, if they believe they've been exposed to someone who tested positive for COVID-19 or have symptoms of COVID-19.

Unique links to order a kit must be shared with all staff in your setting. If you did not receive your links or have questions, please contact dhs.childcaretesting@state.mn.us.

COVID-19 Public Health Support Funds

Cindi Yang, Division Director for Child Care Services at the Department of Human Services provided a reminder of the application window for the October, November and December COVID-19 Public Health Support Funds. The application period closed on Wednesday October 14th at 5 PM.

Next child care provider call

The next provider call will be held on Monday November 9th at 7 PM.