



**State of New Hampshire
Department of Health and Human Services**

**COVID-19 Update for the
Child Care Community**

We will begin promptly at 1:00pm

Hello! And a few Logistics

2

Everyone is muted so we can all hear well.


We will be recording the call.



Hello! And a few Logistics

3

To get professional development hours for today's call:


- If you are on a computer, write the name of your program and your full name(s) in the Zoom Chat 
- If you are participating by phone, send an email to **CCLUOffice@dhhs.nh.gov** with the name of your program and your full name(s)



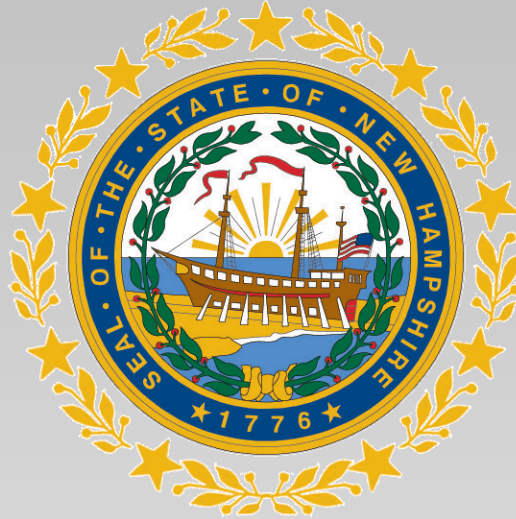
Hello! And a few Logistics

4

To ask questions, make comments or share your ideas:

- If you are on a computer, use the Zoom Chat 
- If you are participating by phone, send an email to **CCLUOffice@dhhs.nh.gov**





**This PowerPoint, the recording of the call
and the chat will be posted at:**

nh.childcareaware.org



State of New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services

COVID-19 Update for the Child Care Community

*Monday March 23, 2020
1:00pm to 2:00pm*

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COVID-19 Update for the Child Care Community

Monday March 23, 2020
1:00pm to 2:00pm

Agenda

1. Welcome and Purpose
2. Coordination and Support
3. Actions Taken
4. **Proposal for your Input**
5. Points of Contact
6. Q&A [use Zoom Chat or email **CCLUOffice@dhhs.nh.gov**]
7. Summary and Next Steps



Welcome and Purpose



Today's Speakers (in order) are:

9



Jackie Cowell
Early Learning NH



Chris Tappan
NH DHHS



Christine Brennan
NH Dept. of Education



Chris Santaniello
NH DHHS



Debra Nelson
NH DHHS



Melissa Clement
NH DHHS



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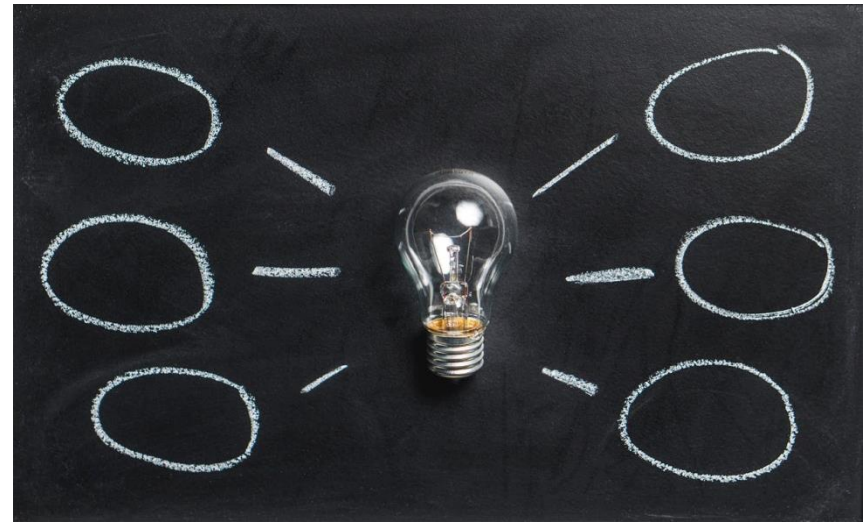
Tracy Pond
Child Care Aware of NH



Coordination and Support

10

- All hands are on deck
- Thinking of and creating out-of-the-box solutions
- Child Care Emergency Response Solutions Team
- CCDF support for Emergency Responder's and Health Care Provider's child care needs



Current State of Child Care in NH

11

What we know about opened/closed programs:

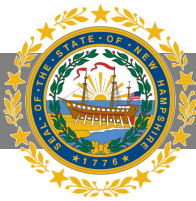
- Program closures: 218 programs
 - 171 contacted
- Open programs: 190
 - 66 are willing to provide emergency child care
- 2 have re-opened

What we are hearing from the field

- The challenges are many
- The needs are varied



ACTIONS TAKEN



- **No-interest loans for small businesses**
- **Unemployment:** Individuals who are unable to work or have reduced hours due to the COVID-19 pandemic will have immediate access to unemployment benefits
 - Benefits paid will be charged to the unemployment compensation trust fund rather than to the employer's account
 - The employees of nonprofits that have not been paying unemployment can still make a claim, which will also not be charged to the employer
- **Federal:**
 - Governor's request to Secretary Azar of US HHS for potential open-enrollment period for 60-90 days
 - Potential Stimulus Package from US Congress



Actions Taken

14

Bureau of Child Development & Head Start Collaboration

Child Care and Development Fund Emergency Policies (continued)

- **“Disaster” billing**
- **Redetermination for family eligibility suspended**
- **Automatic extensions:**
 - Program quality rating designation
 - Provider credential renewals
- **Expedited enrollment:**
 - License-Exempt providers
 - Health care/essential services providers’ children (“special category”)
- **Waivers to permit more children in license-exempt care, as staffing/safety allow**
- **Full-time billing for eligible children in afterschool care as of March 17**
- **Support for Child Care Aware of NH to take action**
- **Ongoing updates to child care community**
- **Additional possibilities? Stay tuned!**



Actions Taken

15

Child Care Licensing Unit

Team 2 Employer Child Care

Approved: 7

- Capacity range from 6-28 children
- School age only – 4
- Preschool and older - 1
- Infants included – 2

Pending: 9

- With State Fire Marshall for approval – 2
- Waiting on additional information or preliminary inquiries - 7



Actions Taken

16

Child Care Licensing Unit

The Child Care Licensing Unit developed 2 teams to rapidly respond to waivers and employer child care requests, consistent with Governor Sununu's Executive Order 2020-04.

Team 1 Waivers

Requested: 17 Withdrawn: 7 – no longer needed

Pending: 4 – waiting on additional information

Approved: 6

- Increase the age on the license to accept school age children (2)
- Increase room capacity, but not overall capacity (3)
- Allow staff to work with expired CPR certifications as the recertification class was cancelled (1)
- Waiting on additional information or preliminary inquiries - 7



Actions Taken

17

Department of Education

- **K-12 system:** Transitioned to Remote Instruction until 4/3/2020
- **School coordination:** Special education services (in small cohorts) and delivering lunches through meal program
- **Space:** K-12 elementary, middle and high schools (including 15 CTE centers which already house early learning centers) may be used for Essential Emergency Child Care
- **Workforce:**
 - Unutilized or underutilized part-time or para educators that are not otherwise deployed by school districts
 - High school students who have participated in CTE programming in early learning, LNA or other related programs
 - Displaced college students



New Hampshire

Department of Education



Child Care and Development Fund Emergency Policy Proposal

- **We want your input on an idea: Emergency Child Care Partner Stipend**
 - Support to partner with the state to match urgent child care needs during the emergency (time TBD) with your space available
 - Support as a pay differential – calculated at an extra \$3/hour per staff member - estimated total of \$1,200/week if your site has 15 staff working
 - Funding estimated to be able to designate about 125 providers/programs
 - Selection criteria likely to include geographic distribution/ages of children served



Questions about the Action Proposed

- **How might this proposal benefit your program?**
- **How might it benefit your staff?**
- **What concerns do you have about the proposal?**
- **Please give us any of your additional thoughts or recommendations about this proposal.**





POINTS OF CONTACT



Points of Contact

21

Child Care Aware of NH

- Continually updated FAQs posted at <http://nh.childcareaware.org>
- Message templates to give to parents and staff?
- Matching urgent child care needs with open programs?
- Matching personnel and volunteer needs, including new health or cleaning staff needs, in partnership with Granite United Way, Volunteer NH, etc.?
- Matching supplies and other needs
- Guidance on how to stay open
- Guidance on how to re-open
- Hotline? To ask questions, make comments and share ideas not related to health



Points of Contact

22

Bureau of Child Development and Head Start Collaboration

- Support to set up emergency child care:
Dianne Chase: Dianne.Chase@dhhs.nh.gov; 271-7190
- License-exempt provider enrollment:
Marlene Burton: Marlene.Burton@dhhs.nh.gov; 271-4228
- CCDF policy/waivers:
Debra Nelson: Debra.Nelson@dhhs.nh.gov; 271-8153
- Provider billing/payment: 271-2175/271-4242 voice only



Points of Contact

Child Care Licensing Unit

Q: If I want to care for more children in my licensed program, what do I need to do?

Send your request to CCLUOffice@dhhs.nh.gov including the name of your program, town, and details of what you are requesting, such as increasing program capacity, room capacities, and if staff to child ratios will be maintained.

Q: What is the process for an employer to open an emergency child care for their staff?

Send your request to ccluoffice@dhhs.nh.gov, including employer, town, and you will be contacted directly for more information.

The Child Care Licensing Unit is coordinating with the State Fire Marshall's Office on these requests, consistent with Governor Sununu's [Executive Order 2020-04](#).

The quickest way to have your request reviewed and to begin the process is by emailing the address above; however if you wish to speak to someone call **603-271-9025** and we will return your call as soon as possible.

Other contacts: Toll Free Number (800) 852-3345, ext. 9025
TDD Access Relay (800) 735-2964
Fax Number (603) 271-4782



Points of Contact

24

COVID-19 Health

- Dial 2-1-1 for help, support and information relative to COVID-19



**State of New Hampshire
Department of Health and Human Services**

Questions & Answers

NOTE: Use Zoom Chat to ask a question, make a comment or share an idea. If on a phone, email **CCLUOffice@dhhs.nh.gov**



Summary and Next Steps

- Today we shared high-level information on:
 - Status of child care
 - What we are hearing from you/the field
 - Our actions to date in support of child care from the Governor's office and DHHS policy changes to our response teams and communication strategies
- Going forward we will continue to:
 - Share up-to-date information
 - Explore different options for support
 - Coordinate/leverage federal, state and local resources (public/private)
 - Be there for you

