



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

PHIL MURPHY
Governor

SHEILA Y. OLIVER
Lt. Governor

CHRISTINE NORBUT BEYER, MSW
Commissioner

March 17, 2020

Dear Child Care Providers,

The Department of Children and Families reminds childcare providers that the state has not directed that they cease operation as a result of the current novel coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak.

Being mindful of their role in bringing resolution to this public health emergency, centers should note the following:

- Social distancing within centers is critical, and every effort should be made to keep children segregated in small and well-separated groups.
- Hand washing should be prioritized, both for staff and for children.
- The CDC and NJDOH websites remain an important source of information about the current public health emergency, and providers should check there regularly for additional information and guidance, including the March 13, 2020 COVID-19 guidance for childcare centers:
 - <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html>
 - https://www.nj.gov/health/cd/documents/topics/NCOV/COVID19_schools_FIN_AL_updated_3.16.2020.pdf
- The Department of Children and Families' COVID-19 website, childcare guidance, and rule waiver, modification, or suspension:
 - <https://www.nj.gov/dcf/coronavirus.html>
 - [https://www.nj.gov/dcf/news/Licensed.Childcare.Guidance\(2\).pdf](https://www.nj.gov/dcf/news/Licensed.Childcare.Guidance(2).pdf)
 - <https://www.nj.gov/dcf/news/DCF-Notice-of-Rule-Waiver-Modification-Suspension.pdf>

Thank you again for the service you provide to New Jersey's children, families and communities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Christine Beyer".

Christine Norbut Beyer
Commissioner

www.nj.gov/dcf