

To All Family, Large Family, and Center Child Care Providers,

The first part of this email was sent to you previously. However, at the most recent Provider Call, there were several questions asked and we wanted to supply you with written answers to those questions to assist you as your work with children and their families. Our thanks to the Division of Public Health for additional answers and information review.

As always, contact your licensing specialist with questions.

The Department of Education
Office of Child Care Licensing

Re-sent: August 26, 2021 with FAQ

To All Family, Large Family, and Center Child Care Providers,

Emergency child care regulations have been posted on the Delaware Department of Education (DDOE) website. These emergency regulations became effective on Monday, August 16, 2021. The following link <https://www.doe.k12.de.us/domain/89> will take you to the specific place on DDOE's website where the emergency orders are posted.

Multiple listings of emergency regulations are posted, each for a specific type of licensed child care. To view the complete emergency order, refer to the specific emergency order for the type of child care program you provide. Those listed below pertain to child care facilities licensed by the Office of Child Care Licensing.

Regulation 933: Regulations for Early Care and Education and School-Age Centers

Regulation 934: Regulations for Family and Large Family Child Care Homes

Regulation 105: Residential Child Care Facilities and Day Treatment Programs

Regulation 938: Regulations for Youth Camps (Regulations for Youth Camps are newly enacted. No camp is currently licensed under these regulations but could possibly become licensed during the emergency order.)

In summary, the following emergency regulations become effective for all licensed child care on Monday, August 16, 2021:

1. All persons or programs conducting child care shall recommend mask use by children ages 2 through pre-kindergarten.
2. All persons or programs conducting child care shall require mask use by children in kindergarten through twelfth grade, plus all staff, family members, and visitors inside the child care facility, regardless of vaccination status.
3. Persons with a medical condition or disability that prevents them from wearing a mask can request a reasonable accommodation from the child care facility. These accommodations must be available for OCCL review if requested.

4. Masks are not required in child care homes or facilities in the following instances:
 - When seated at a table to eat or drink
 - When asleep or napping
 - When engaged in any activity that makes wearing a mask not feasible, such as swimming
 - When a person is in a personal space (i.e., single office) and others outside of that person's household are not present
 - When outdoors
 - When children are not in the building
5. All child care facilities that provide bus service or transportation services to and/or from the child care facility shall recommend mask use by children ages 2 through pre-kindergarten and shall require mask use by children in kindergarten through twelfth grade, staff, and visitors riding school buses or other transportation vehicles, regardless of vaccination status.

These emergency regulations take effect on August 16, 2021 and remain in effect for 120 days. At the expiration of 120 days, the Department of Education may choose to renew this Emergency Order once for a period not to exceed 60 days.

Comments regarding reconsideration or revision of the amendments to the Emergency Regulations may be send to the Department of Education, Office of the Secretary, Attn: Regulations Review, 401 Federal Street, Suite 2, Dover, DE 19901 or by email to DOEregulations.comment@doe.k12.de.us.

As always, please contact your licensing specialists with questions.

FAQ BY PROVIDERS

Q: I want to continue screening people entering my child care home/facility. How could I do this?

A: This may be done by actively monitoring a person's temperature by (ideally) using a touchless thermometer before they enter your facility or by asking staff and children (or a parent/guardian on behalf of the child) to report their temperature upon arrival. Personnel screening for fever should consider wearing gloves and face masks.

- If a staff member or child reports or is noted to have body temperature at or above 99.5°F., discuss if there is an underlying cause. The person may be admitted but increased monitoring throughout the day must follow to ensure the temperature does not increase or additional symptoms do not develop.

- If the person has a temperature at or above 100.4°F, they must be sent home. If a provider has a policy that requires staff or children be excluded for a temperature lower than 100.4°F, they should continue to follow their policy, as well as DELACARE Regulations, on child health exclusions.

- If providers wish to further screen individuals before admitting them to the facility, they could ask, "Do you have any of the following symptoms: fever, cough, shortness of breath/difficulty breathing, chills, repeated shaking with chills, muscle pain, sore throat,

vomiting, nausea, diarrhea, headache/congestion/runny nose with no known underlying cause (such as seasonal or chronic allergies), fatigue, or new loss of smell or taste? “

- If NO, ask if they have been in close contact with a person with confirmed COVID-19 infection while they were infectious (starting 48 hours prior to the onset of symptoms, or the date of the test for those without symptoms, until the end of the person’s isolation period).
 - If no, admit the person.
 - If yes and the person is fully vaccinated, admit the person.
 - If yes and the person is not fully vaccinated, do not admit the person. He/She must quarantine at home through the end of their quarantine period (10 days from the date of their last exposure to a positive case or a 7-day quarantine with a negative test on or after Day 5 of quarantine.) In these cases, a PCR (nasal swab) test is recommended if used to end quarantine. If a rapid test is used, it should not be done before Day 7. Monitor daily for symptoms.
- If YES, but symptoms have a known cause (asthma, COPD, chronic sinusitis, etc.), the provider should weigh the risks for COVID-19 exposure and decide if the person should be admitted.
- If YES and there is a fever of 100.4 or higher, or the person is otherwise symptomatic and considered at risk for COVID-19 exposure, the person should not be admitted and should be advised to consult a health care professional for further guidance, and/or obtain a COVID-19 test.

Q: I have been exposed to a positive case of COVID-19, what should I do?

A: **If you are fully vaccinated**, you do not have to quarantine. However, you must wear a mask when around others in public for 14 days or until you receive a negative test result and should self-monitor for any symptoms. It is recommended that you be tested 3-5 days after exposure to confirm you are negative.

If you are not fully vaccinated, you must quarantine and watch for symptoms. If you do not develop symptoms, be tested between 5-7 days after exposure. If you receive a negative COVID-19 result and still do not develop any symptoms, you may return to work after 7 days. If you do not get tested and have developed no symptoms, you must continue to quarantine for a full 10 days, then you may return to work.

Q: There has been a positive case of COVID-19 in a center classroom or in my family/large family child care home. What do I do?

A: Inform families of children who have been close contacts of the person who tested positive plus staff and other adults who were in close contact. (Close contact is defined as within 6 feet of a positive COVID-19 case for at least 15 minutes. The definition of close contact does not change even if masks are worn.) Everyone not fully vaccinated, adult or child, who has been in close contact with the person testing positive must quarantine. The family/large family child care home or center classroom must close until a thorough cleaning has been completed, then persons not needing to quarantine may return. Inform Public Health of the positive case by contacting 302-741-2987/2988 to receive guidance on cleaning and other issues. As a courtesy, inform your licensing specialist of the positive case.

Q: I have been informed that a child in my care was exposed to a positive case of COVID-19 while at a friend's house. I know that child must quarantine for 10 days from the date of their last exposure but do I (and the other children in my care or classroom) also have to quarantine?

A: No, close contacts of someone who is a close contact of a positive COVID-19 case do not have to quarantine.

Q: If I am exposed to a positive case of COVID-19, when is the optimal time to be tested?

A: Testing should be done 3-5 days after known exposures.

Q: If a parent who is dropping off their child at the outside door of the child care, do they still need to wear a mask?

A: If a parent is not coming into the child care facility, they do not have to wear a mask unless that is your business practice. But, remember, depending on the age of the child in your care, you may have to have very close contact with that family member in order to receive the child.

Q: Who is the primary person that communicates information to providers?

A: Information sent to providers is usually sent from the Office of Child Care Licensing because we have an email distribution list of providers. However, depending on the information itself, it could have originated from DOE leadership, Public Health, or other community partners. OCCL works to keep providers informed of information from a variety of sources.

Q: Some family members don't want to wear a mask when dropping off/picking up children. What do I do?

A: Inform people coming to your center that according to emergency child care regulations, only persons wearing a mask (age 5 and older) may be admitted to your child care facility. Advise parents that they will have to stay outside during drop off and pick up if they refuse to wear a mask inside the facility. It might be helpful to send a notice to the families you serve of this requirement.

Q: What are the best practice recommendation for masks in children? How many masks to use? When to change them?

A: A reusable mask should be washed whenever it gets dirty or at least daily. A disposal mask should be thrown away after use, but should be changed daily or anytime if gets dirty. Always wash your hands after handling or touching a used mask.

Q: Will I be cited by OCCL if a parent is not wearing a mask properly while inside my child care home/center?

A: Yes. It is the provider's responsibility to ensure that the DELACARE Regulations and any emergency regulations are followed.

Q: The emergency regulations state that a child care provider must recommend mask use by children ages 2 through pre-kindergarten. Does this mean I must tell my families their child ages 2 – kindergarten should wear a mask while in my care?

A: Yes.

Q: Are COVID-19 rapid tests result reliable? Do we, or the children we serve, need another test?

A: Yes, particularly for screening purposes. Public Health does recommend a confirmatory PCR test for positive rapid antigen tests, but appropriate infection control measures should be performed based on a positive rapid antigen test.

Q: Some parents do not want to get their children tested even though their child shows symptoms similar to COVID-19 symptoms. They are taking them to medical professionals who are not testing them or recommending testing. How can a child care provider feel comfortable allowing them to come back into care after not being tested?

A: Providers are encouraged to request testing for COVID-19 if appropriate symptoms are present. Child care facilities can determine if the facility will require a COVID-19 test for those with symptoms.

Q: If my child care center wants to have weekly testing of staff and children (with parental permission), how can we do this? Are family/large family child care home providers eligible too?

A: Early learning facilities are eligible. More information can be found at <https://coronavirus.delaware.gov/testing/>.

Q: If my own school-age child is not vaccinated and is exposed to a positive case of COVID-19 (i.e. is a close contact), do I need to close my family/large family child care home while he/she is quarantining?

A: It depends:

- No, if you can keep your own child away from the children in care so that there is no contact between them. Close contacts of close contacts do not need to be quarantined.
- Yes, if you cannot isolate your own child from the children in care.

Q: I am a family child care provider and someone in my household tested positive for COVID-19. Must I close my family child care? If so, for how long?

A: Close contacts of close contacts do not need to be quarantined. If the individual can be isolated from the child care areas, then the facility may not need to close.

Q: If children are wearing masks, does that change the quarantine requirement?

A: No.