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YMCA Childcare Resource Service

TO: Child Care Providers
FROM: YMCA Childcare Resource Service
RE: Child Care Community Update – COVID-19
DATE: March 17, 2020

Dear Early Learning and Child Care Providers,
YMCA Childcare Resource Service is dedicated to supporting you – San Diego’s child care and early learning providers – through the current public health crisis and response related to the coronavirus and COVID-19. As such, we will strive to keep you informed of pertinent information from our public leaders by distributing periodic emails and occasional phone calls. Below, you will find some information we learned today as well as a list of resources for more information. Please feel free to contact us at 619-521-3055 for more information and we will do our best to address your questions and concerns. Keep yourselves well and thank you for all that you do. We appreciate you!

Early Care and Education Call with County Supervisor Nathan Fletcher, and County of San Diego Public Health Officer, Dr. Wilma J. Wooten, 3/17/2020 @1:00 PM.

1. As of today (3/17/2020), the San Diego County Department of Public Health does not have any guidance specific to child care and has released the following [Order of the Health Officer and Emergency Regulations](#).
2. The County emphasized three key points from the Order:
 - a. No gatherings of 50 people or more in one space at the same time,
 - b. If you are 65 or older, have a chronic underlying condition, or have a compromised immune system self-quarantine yourself at home, and
 - c. Strong recommendation for persons exhibiting mild to moderate symptoms of COVID-19 to self-isolate themselves in their place of residence unless seeking medical treatment.
3. San Diego County Public Health Services is implementing guidance from the State of California, and the State has not made any recommendations related to child care other than the Community Care Licensing Public Information Notice found [HERE](#).
4. The smaller the group size the better to decrease the potential for spreading the virus.
5. There is currently no recommendation from any governing body that requires childcare facilities to close but facilities have the right to choose to close if they wish.
6. SD County, Economic Injury Resources
If your business has suffered substantial economic injury as a result of COVID-19, forecasts economic losses due to events that bring in high revenues being cancelled due to COVID-19, please complete the attached [Economic Injury Worksheet](#) and return to Dustin.Ivers@sdcounty.ca.gov

Questions Responded to on the Call

Q: Is the guidance around small groups of 10 kids together at a time guidance or a rule?

A: Guidance only, applicable to a single home or classroom at one time. It is our understanding that there is flexibility in counting teachers or not in the count of 10 so we are assuming the because the count is guidance 10 children + teachers would be fine.

Q: Are there resources available to childcare providers who are struggling financially due to this crisis?

A: Supervisor Fletcher said there are going to be financial supports put in place to support small businesses impacted by the crisis. We will share information about how to access these funds once we receive it from the County. Currently there is a fund through the San Diego Foundation that can be accessed at [HERE](#).

Q: Should childcare programs close or not?

A: It is at the discretion of the provider, at this time there is no mandate as childcare is recognized as a critical component of our region's infrastructure.

Q: Can you help us understand when we should accept children?

A: Continue to follow guidance you have in place. If a child presents with symptoms (cough, fever, sore throat, runny nose) parents should be called to pick up. A child with symptoms should be not be accepted or should be separated until they can be picked up.

Q: Is there funding from the State?

A: There is a bill awaiting signature at the Governor's office that will be shared when available.

Early Care and Education Call with California Community Care Licensing: 3/17/2020 @3:00.

The presentation content was a review of the Community Care Licensing PIN 20-04 and leadership indicated that we are in [Scenario 3: Implementation of Mitigation Measures](#).

Questions Responded to on the Call

Q: Most frequently asked question is, "Should childcare facilities close?"

A: Closure is at the discretion of the business owner unless your local, state or federal authorities advise you to close.

A resource from Child Care Aware of America was shared:

[Should I Close my Child Care Program? A Coronavirus Flowchart](#)

Q: Can we remain open just for the essential service workers (health care or first responders) and tell other families they should stay home during this time?

A: Yes, you can prioritize your families who are first responders and health care workers during this time and serve only those families.

Q: Can we get support getting children screened before they come into our care? What about staff, how can we monitor their health and screen them?

The YMCA of San Diego County is dedicated to improving the quality of human life and to helping all people realize their fullest potential as children of God through the development of the spirit, mind and body.

We do not have access to screening kits and could contaminate each other. If we stay open can CCL help us get screening kits for staff from the State government?

A: Current practices do not require you to check the child's temperature before they walk in the door. The daily health check is really best practice for kids. Best practice is to have staff do their self-screen when they wake up in the morning before they come to work and identifying if they are coughing or have flu like symptoms. There is no kit to screen staff at this time.

Pertinent Resources:

County Department of Public Health

<https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/coronavirus/>

Latest Public Health Order

<https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/dam/sdc/hhsa/programs/phs/Epidemiology/HealthOfficerOrderCOVID19.pdf>

Community Care Licensing

<https://cdss.ca.gov/inforesources/child-care-licensing>

Latest CCL Pin https://cdss.ca.gov/Portals/9/CCLD/PINs/2020/CCP/PIN_20-04-CCP.pdf

State Department of Public Health

<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/OPA/Pages/New-Release-2020.aspx>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

San Diego County Community Response Fund

<https://www.sdfoundation.org/programs/programs-and-funds/san-diego-covid-19-community-response-fund/>