

St. Louis County Regulations Pertaining to Childcare Providers

In coordination with the COVID-19 Regional Response Team led by Dr. Jason Purnell

3/24/20

1:00 pm - 2:00 pm

1. Welcome and Introductions - St. Louis County Department of Human Services (Shannon Koenig)
2. Rules of Engagement (Shannon Koenig)
3. Background (Dr. Jason Purnell, Shannon Koenig)
4. Update on Regulations Relative to St. Louis County (Shannon Koenig + Q&A)
5. Childcare Needs Survey (United 4 Children, ChildCare Aware of MO + Q&A)
6. Community Supports Addressing Needs (Dr. Jason Purnell)

Q&A

- If we have teachers that are working and have their children enrolled at our center can their children attend if we are open for essential employees only?
 - Refer to the County's Stay At Home Order Frequently Asked Questions for the list of essential businesses. If you are working in a childcare center serving necessary employees of essential businesses, you are considered a necessary employee of an essential business.
- How do providers comply with social distancing when caring for infants?
 - Unfortunately, it will be difficult to maintain a 6 foot distance from infants and toddlers. Please follow the sanitation and hygiene practices as seen in the County's Guidance for Childcare Settings and in the CDC guidelines.
- Respectfully, is this chat only applying to child care operators that are staying open? Is there going to be any topics addressed for providers that have already decided to close? Funding, etc?
 - Under the order in place until April 22, childcare providers may operate only to the extent that they provide services to people who are necessary employees of essential businesses. Providers must also adhere to social distancing requirements and the specific childcare guidelines listed in the order while operating.
 - Many advocates are working on funding opportunities for childcare centers who are closed. Follow the Facebook pages and websites of United 4 Children and Child Care Aware of MO for updates on opportunities.
 - If you are closed, you must complete the form found at the Missouri Department of Health & Senior Services website: <https://health.mo.gov/safety/childcare/covid-19-updates.php>

- What about non-essential employees of an essential business?
 - Refer to the County's Stay At Home Order Frequently Asked Questions for the list of essential businesses. If your employer is an essential business or provides an essential activity as defined by the Stay At Home Order, you are allowed to go to work. Be sure you protect yourself and others by following social distancing guidelines such as washing hands, using hand sanitizer, and maintaining at least 6 feet of distance between workers.
 - It is highly recommended that high-risk populations (like persons over 60 years old or persons with underlying health conditions) should stay at home. If a person has a fever, a cough, and shortness of breath, they should consult with a medical professional.
 - Consult with your employer.

- Where is the letter we are to give our workers? Where can we find that?
 - The St. Louis County order assumes that citizens will take their civic duties seriously and follow the order for the greater good of the community. There is no requirement of proof that you are allowed to be outside your residence.
 - Refer to the County's Stay At Home Order Frequently Asked Questions.

- What if one parent is essential and the other is not?
 - Care can be provided for any necessary employee of essential businesses as defined by the County's order. It is up to each childcare facility to decide on any additional policies.

- What about those of essential personnel but the significant other is home working or a teacher whose school is closed?
 - Care can be provided for any necessary employee of essential businesses as defined by the County's order. It is up to each childcare facility to decide on any additional policies.

- If teachers are not supposed to switch groups how do we get them breaks but be fiscally responsible?
 - Refer to the County's Guidance for Childcare Settings.
 - Each child care facility is responsible for solutions around keeping groups together and teachers within the same groups while providing breaks.
 - Many advocates are working on funding opportunities for childcare centers who are open to employees of essential businesses. If the Federal Stimulus package is approved, there may be some provisions.
 - Follow the Facebook page of United 4 Children and Child Care Aware of MO for updates.

- Is there an outline for caring for infants and toddlers with regard to social distancing?
 - Unfortunately, it will be difficult to maintain a 6 foot distance from infants and toddlers. Please follow the sanitation and hygiene practices as seen in the County's Guidance for Childcare Settings.

- With social distancing how can we guarantee children adhere to that? They obviously do not understand and are constantly in each other's face. As well as I have children always running up for hugs. While I can encourage other greetings, I can't turn them away from a hug.
 - Unfortunately, it will be difficult to maintain a 6 foot distance from infants and toddlers. Please follow the sanitation and hygiene practices as seen in the County's Guidance for Childcare Settings.
 - Use this as an opportunity to teach children other ways to express themselves. Use creative ways to share love such as blow kisses, waving, and air hugs. Refer to some useful links at the bottom and in attachments.

- We only can be open for first responders through this stay in place until April 22. Is this right?
 - Under the order in place until April 22, childcare providers may operate only to the extent that they provide services to people who are necessary employees of essential businesses. Providers must also adhere to social distancing requirements and the specific childcare guidelines listed in the order while operating.
 - If you are closed, you must complete the form found at the Missouri Department of Health & Senior Services website: <https://health.mo.gov/safety/childcare/covid-19-updates.php>.

- What about DSS Subsidy if the child is receiving the funds does not have a parent that would be defined as an essential worker?
 - Subsidies will continue according to the Missouri Department of Social Services. Please visit their website for more information: [DSS Covid-19](#). You can also contact your facility specialist for more answers to your specific questions.

- So under this stay in place we can't be open to all parents, only first responders correct?
 - Under the order in place until April 22, childcare providers may operate only to the extent that they provide services to people who are necessary employees of essential businesses. Providers must also adhere to social distancing requirements and the specific childcare guidelines listed in the order while operating.
 - If you are closed, you must complete the form found at the Missouri Department of Health & Senior Services website: <https://health.mo.gov/safety/childcare/covid-19-updates.php>

- So, those teachers can't get a break if they have to be with their group the entire time? Some of these kids are in care for 10 hours.
 - Refer to the County's Guidance for Childcare Settings.
 - Childcare must be carried out in stable groups of twelve or fewer ("stable" means that the same twelve or fewer children are in the same group each day); children shall not change from one group to another in the same day; if more than one group of children is cared for at one facility, each group shall be in a separate room and groups shall not mix with each other; and childcare providers shall remain solely with one group of children in the same day.
 - Each child care facility is responsible for solutions around keeping groups together and teachers within the same groups.

- I had a question about breaks so- how can we break teachers if they cannot switch groups? If an admin did breaks, they'd also be moving from group to group.
 - Childcare must be carried out in stable groups of twelve or fewer ("stable" means that the same twelve or fewer children are in the same group each day); children shall not change from one group to another in the same day; if more than one group of children is cared for at one facility, each group shall be in a separate room and groups shall not mix with each other; and childcare providers shall remain solely with one group of children in the same day.
 - Each child care facility is responsible for solutions around keeping groups together and teachers within the same groups.
 - You can also contact Child Care Aware of MO if you are searching for additional registered childcare teachers at referralcenter@mo.childcareaware.org.

- How do we prevent parents from being hostile in the case that they are a non-essential worker, but yet have to go to work?
 - Refer to the County's Stay At Home Order Frequently Asked Questions for the list of essential businesses. If your employer is an essential business or provides an essential activity as defined by the order, you are allowed to go to work. Be sure you protect yourself and others by following social distancing guidelines such as washing hands, using hand sanitizer, and maintaining at least 6 feet of distance between workers.
 - It is highly recommended that high-risk populations (like persons over 60 years old or persons with underlying health conditions) should stay at home. If a person has a fever, a cough, and shortness of breath, they should consult with a medical professional.
 - Consult with your employer.

 - If you have children in your care, these are some tips to help. Refer to the additional resources at the bottom.
 - Take care of yourself
 - Rest when you can
 - Be kind to yourself
 - Take breathing breaks to help you stay calm
 - Meditate

- Eat well and regularly
 - Help children feel safe
 - Help children feel loved
 - Provide a calm environment
 - Keep children fed, cleaned and clothed
 - Keep their bodies safe from harm
 - Offer a consistent daily routine
 - Listen to their feelings
 - Offer soothing support-calm words and deep breathing
 - Teach self soothing practices-yoga and sensory bottles
 - Use creative ways to share love-blow kisses and do air hugs
 - If you need additional and immediate behavioral health support, please contact a local hotline:
 - **Behavioral Health, Response ACI Hotline:** 314-469-6644; 800-811-4760; TTY: 314-469-3638; or visit <http://bhrstl.org/support-2/>
 - **St. Louis County Health Line:** 314-615-2660 or visit <https://www.stlouisco.com/Health-and-Wellness/Contact>
 - **Call 911 if it's an emergency**

- What if someone (teacher, student, parent, etc.) diagnosed or has symptoms of the virus. Should the center be closed right away or continue operating?
 - We recommend that you follow the CDC guidelines found here: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/index.html>.
 - If you are unsure, contact your local health department:
 - St. Louis County Health Line: 314-615-2660; infointel2@stlouisco.com or visit <https://www.stlouisco.com/Health-and-Wellness/Contact>.
 - If you do close, you must complete the form found at the Missouri Department of Health & Senior Services website: <https://health.mo.gov/safety/childcare/covid-19-updates.php>.

- If you have multiple schools, with different DVN numbers and are considering combining. How do we handle families who receive child care subsidy and their payments?
 - Please visit the Missouri Department of Social Services at their website for more information: [DSS Covid-19](#).
 - You can also contact your facility specialist for more answers to your specific questions.

- Where can people find the up-to-date list of childcare centers that are remaining open for essential personnel?
 - The entire list is not being shared with the public; however, you can contact Child Care Aware of MO if you are searching for childcare by emailing referralcenter@mo.childcareaware.org.

- Can I please get a phone call from someone who can answer some additional questions for my center as we also sit within a nursing home? For example: We have been asked to send staff to other departments to help out since we are low. But that means we have been with children and then going out and helping.
 - Refer to the County's Guidance for Childcare Settings.
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 - Each child care facility is responsible for solutions around keeping groups together and teachers within the same groups.
 - We recommend that you contact your facility specialist for more answers to your specific questions.
 - You can also contact Child Care Aware of MO if you are searching for additional registered childcare teachers: referralcenter@mo.childcareaware.org.

- We have a parent who is a student who is attending online classes? She receives state subsidy. Is she counted as an essential worker?
 - Refer to the County's Stay At Home Order Frequently Asked Questions for the list of essential businesses.

- What if your center is closed and the children are on subsidy? How will that affect the monthly payment?
 - Please visit the Missouri Department of Social Services at their website for more information: [DSS Covid-19](#).
 - You can also contact your facility specialist for more answers to your specific questions.
 - If you are closed, you must complete the form found at the Missouri Department of Health & Senior Services website: <https://health.mo.gov/safety/childcare/covid-19-updates.php>.

- Can we bill for more full time days for the school age children that have been coming full time who usually only receive 5 full time days throughout the school year?
 - We recommend that you contact your facility specialist for more answers to your specific questions.
 - Please visit the Missouri Department of Social Services at their website for more information: [DSS Covid-19](#).

- If you are a child care facility who would like to serve children of necessary employees of essential businesses, please complete this survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/GJ92VXG>.
- If you are a teacher who is wanting to help in an open child care facility, send teachers' name, email address, and county where you live at: referralcenter@mo.childcareaware.org.

More Resources:

<https://consciousdiscipline.com/covid-19-five-helpful-responses-for-families/>

<https://www.naeyc.org/resources/topics/covid-19>

<https://childmind.org/article/supporting-kids-during-the-covid-19-crisis/>

<https://www.warner.rochester.edu/newsevents/story/2565>

<https://info.childcareaware.org/coronavirus-updates#providers>

<https://www.pbs.org/newshour/health/10-tips-for-talking-about-covid-19-with-your-kids>

<https://united4children.org/covid19/>

- **Missouri Department of Health & Senior Services website:**
<https://health.mo.gov/safety/childcare/covid-19-updates.php>
- **CDC Guidelines for Community, Schools and Childcare:**
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/index.html>
- **Missouri Department of Social Services: [DSS Covid-19](#)**
- **St. Louis County Government's COVID-19 Website**
 - <https://www.stlouisco.com/Your-Government/County-Executive/COVID-19>
- If you need additional and immediate behavioral health support, please contact a local hotline:
 - **Behavioral Health, Response ACI Hotline:** 314-469-6644; 800-811-4760; TTY: 314-469-3638; or visit <http://bhrstl.org/support-2/>
 - **St. Louis County Health Line:** 314-615-2660; infotel2@stlouisco.com or visit <https://www.stlouisco.com/Health-and-Wellness/Contact>
 - **Call 911 if it's an emergency**