



IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH & WELFARE

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Dear Child Care Providers,

We are writing in response to Governor Little’s statewide announcement today, declaring a “stay home order” for all of Idaho. We here at the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare (IDHW) are committed to sending updates as this situation continues to evolve and change. In response to the governor’s “stay home order” we offer the following guidance:

- **Childcare is an essential service.** We heard from the Governor today, during questions and answers, his commitment to the critical nature of our work. Those essential businesses serving our communities can’t function without the care you provide for Idaho’s children.
- Because childcare is essential to our community, **you are exempt from the restrictions in the order,** you are not required to close. If you are able to safely continue caring for children, it is important that you limit group sizes as much as possible. Also, please help children practice social distancing and personal hygiene to the best of their ability.
- As a childcare provider, you already know best practices for keeping your facility healthy, safe, and clean. Your health and safety practices are more important now than ever. Please continue to follow the CDC’s guidelines and the Health District’s recommendations for cleaning, disinfecting, and sanitizing at your program.
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/index.html>
If you have specific questions about health and safety practices at your facility, your Health District is available to support you.
- We understand that some supplies may still be difficult to obtain. If shortages are impacting your ability to operate, please contact IdahoSTARS. *They may not be able to help you obtain supplies,* but we are working to understand the need, and gather resources as they become available. Also, your Health District may be able to help you make safe substitutions for certain health and safety supplies.

- If you decide to close your business, temporarily or permanently, please contact your local IdahoSTARS Child Care Resource Center to update your business status. This is especially important as essential community members use IdahoSTARS as a resource to seek childcare.
- For those childcare providers that are due to renew their license or ICCP certification soon, please watch for additional communication about licensing and ICCP from IDHW and IdahoSTARS.

We understand that you may have additional questions, and we strongly encourage you to review the Frequently Asked Questions document that we shared previously.

<https://healthandwelfare.idaho.gov/Children/ChildCareAssistance/tabid/292/Default.aspx> If you continue to have questions, please reach out to IdahoSTARS, your local Health District, or IDHW/ICCP/State Licensing as needed. We remain committed to supporting you and the incredibly important service that you provide.

With continued gratitude,



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