INTERIM GUIDANCE FOR CHILD CARE SERVICE PROVIDERS

This document summarizes CUPHD’s recommendations for Child Care Service providers during Phase 3 of Restore Illinois. This guidance will be reviewed and updated by CUPHD if our region moves Phases.

- Child care programs that have been providing emergency care using an emergency license obtained from DCFS during Phases 1 and 2 of Restore Illinois will be allowed to operate under their non-emergency license, if they have one, and expand capacity as their region enters Phase 3.
- Child care programs that have been closed and will reopen in Phase 3 or 4 must develop a Reopening Plan that ensures they have revised operational and preparedness policies in place before opening. These newly reopened programs are required to operate at a reduced capacity for the first 4 weeks to support successful implementation of the heightened health and safety standards. After the initial 4 weeks, they may expand their capacity in accordance with the new group size limits that will remain in force throughout Phases 3 and 4 of Restore Illinois.
- In Phases 3 and 4, the use of child care centers and child care homes will no longer be restricted to children of essential workers.
- Perform daily health checks for all children, caregivers, staff, and visitors:
  - Symptom checks—person who displays signs of illness must not enter the facility
  - Temperature checks—persons with a fever of 100.4 or above or who feel feverish or are warm to the touch must not be admitted.
  - Have a separate area for staff or children who have symptoms where they can be isolated until they can go home.
- Testing is available at the Community Based Testing Site at Marketplace Shopping Center (2000 N. Neil St.). This site is open seven days a week, 8am-4pm.
- If a positive case is identified, CUPHD will work with the site to determine next steps.
- Require face coverings:
  - In hallways and when entering/exiting the facility for all persons over age 2.
  - In classrooms for children over age 2 to extent feasible.
  - In classrooms for staff.
- Frequently sanitize all high-touch surfaces as recommended in CDC guidance.
- Require physical examinations for children and staff as per licensing guidelines.
Key Policies for All Licensed Child Care Centers and Homes in Phases 3 & 4

- All licensed child care programs that reopen or continue operation in Phases 3 and 4 must:
  - Follow all DCFS licensing rules, including new limits on group sizes
  - Follow all CDC and IDPH guidelines for child care programs
  - For child care programs that were closed during Phases 1 and 2, before reopening, develop and submit to DCFS a Reopening Plan that includes preparations for:
    - How to isolate children or staff who become sick
    - How to ensure substitutes are available in the event staff members become sick
    - What to do if a child or staff member tests positive for COVID-19, including:
      - Policy for reporting all positive cases to DCFS
      - Plan for reporting incidences of exposure to staff and families while maintaining privacy
      - Plan for a designated staff person to assist the local health department with contact tracing and monitoring of absenteeism among children and staff
      - Plan for working with the local health department to determine the need for facility closure

Daycare Cohorts

- If your daycare facility is overseeing 10 or more children at a time: break up children into smaller cohorts (5-10 per group) and keep these same groups together everyday. If possible, keep cohorts separated in separate rooms. These groups should stay together for meals, snacks, rest and play periods.
- Staff should stay with the same cohort of children.
- Children in a cohort should still try to maintain a 6 foot distance from each other, and should keep entirely separate from other cohorts.
- Keep recesses, lunch and snack breaks, and other group activities separated by cohort, and keep children 6 feet apart.
- Staff should wear cloth face coverings while at work. Children above the age of 2 who can medically tolerate a cloth face covering, should wear one to the greatest extent possible.
Specific Requirements for Child Care Home in Phases 3 & 4

- Licensed-exempt homes must return to their pre-COVID-19 group size limits. No more than 3 unrelated children will be permitted at one time.
- Licensed homes may reopen at the start of Phase 3
  - They must submit a Reopening Plan to DCFS
  - Capacity will be limited to the smaller of the program’s licensed capacity or 10 children
  - Group day care homes must be able to keep children in separate groups of 10 or fewer children, up to their licensed capacity
- In order to reopen, all child care homes must:
  - Maintain stable cohorts of children each day
  - Be able to provide sleeping spaces separated by 6 feet

Specific Requirements for Child Care Centers in Phases 3 & 4

- For the first 4 weeks of operation, centers must operate with reduced group sizes
  - Limited per room to serving 8 infants, 10 children in all other age groups
  - Emergency Day Care Centers licensed with an emergency license during Phases 1 and 2 that have been open for at least 4 weeks have already met this requirement
- Before expanding enrollment, programs must:
  - Review their Reopening Plan with their DCFS Licensing Representative
  - Have at least 50 square feet per child 2 years and older
  - Add a minimum of 4 square feet—beyond regular licensing requirements—of sleeping space per child for infants and toddlers to ensure cribs and cots can be placed 6 feet apart
- The expanded group size limit per room for Phases 3 and 4 are as follows: 8 infants, 12 toddlers, 12 two-year-olds, 15 children ages 3-5, 15 school-aged children (limited to 10 children in programs with changing participants week-by-week)
  - 8 infants, 12 toddlers, 12 two-year-olds, 15 children ages 3-5
  - 15 school-aged children (limited to 10 children in programs with changing participants week-by-week)
- Ratios will remain the same as per licensing regulations
Key Additional Policies for Centers in Phases 3 & 4 of the Restore Illinois Plan

- Child care programs must maintain stable groups of children at all times
- Staff must be limited to working with one group of children
  - A “floating” staff member is permitted between no more than 2 rooms if smocks/overgarments are changed between rooms
  - Qualified substitutes are allowed for days that staff are out sick/on vacation
- Programs should staff for at least 2 adults per classroom if possible
  - One staff person per room is permissible at the start/end of day as long as ratios are met
- Playgrounds located on the property must be used by one group of children at a time per defined area; no mixing of groups. Public playgrounds should not be visited.
  - Must allow time between groups using outdoor play structures, or sanitize between groups
  - Assign playground toys to classrooms to the extent possible
- Children and staff should change shoes upon arrival or use shoecovers while indoors