

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Jewel Mullen, M.D., M.P.H., M.P.A.
Commissioner



Dannel P. Malloy
Governor
Nancy Wyman
Lt. Governor

DATE: December 6, 2012

TO: Licensed Child Day Care Centers, Group Day Care Homes and Family Day Care Homes

FROM: Debra L. Johnson, Chief, Community Based Regulation Section

RE: Reporting of Unforeseen, Temporary Closures

In advance of the Hurricane Sandy, the Department of Public Health Child Day Care Licensing Program sent a message out to all licensed child care programs and providers using a mass notification system. The message referred providers to the Department's website for information about food, water and generator use in the aftermath of a storm. I hope you found this information helpful. The message also asked providers to report closings and re-openings to the Department. We want to thank those who reported impact to their programs and operations. The Department tracked the closings and re-openings of programs and was able to document the impact on child care providers.

The Department's role is to provide support to programs during normal business operations but also during times of emergency. In regards to emergency preparedness and response, the Department has presented emergency preparedness workshops, offered individual providers assistance in identifying alternate ways of satisfying regulatory requirements in crisis situations, expedited change of address approvals for currently licensed programs, facilitated approvals of additional space or alternate use of space, and referred programs to resources for recovery assistance. Programs are encouraged to continue to take advantage of these supports.

Much was learned from Hurricane Sandy and the nor'easter that followed in its footsteps. While the Department's role is to provide support to programs in times of emergency, it was learned that the added burden placed on providers related to the reporting of temporary closures did not provide significant supports or assistance to licensed programs. Programs already know how to and do reach out to the Department for assistance when needed.

The purpose of this correspondence is to inform you that it is not necessary that you report all unforeseen, temporary closures of your program to the Department. It is only necessary that you contact the Department if prior approval is necessary, such as a move to an alternate location, use of alternate space, or use of space differently. However, should you desire assistance with any recovery efforts, the Department can be reached by calling 800-282-6063 or 860-509-8045.

The Department will continue to utilize the mass notification system to alert child care providers to important information and updates. The Department will work to improve our messaging based on feedback we have received. When receiving these messages, please be sure to listen to the entire message and follow any prompts. Generally, you are asked to push a button to hear the entire message and to confirm receipt.



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