



# STATE OF CONNECTICUT

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

### Community Based Regulation Section

Dear Child Care Provider:

The Department of Public Health is providing the following tips to keep you, your staff the children you care for, and the members of your household healthy in the aftermath of a storm:

#### **Food Safety:**

If the temperature in your refrigerator goes above 40 degrees, throw away any perishable foods such as beef, poultry, fish, eggs, dairy, opened baby formula, opened fruit juices and cut fruits and vegetables.

- Food can be safely re-frozen if it still has ice crystals on it or has stayed below 40 degrees.
- Do not eat any food that has come into contact with flood water. This includes packaged food items in plastic, cardboard, cloth and similar containers that may have been water damaged, as well as beverage containers with screw caps, snap lids, crimped caps (soda bottles), twist caps, flip tops, and home canned foods, as these tops cannot be disinfected appropriately.
- As always, if there is any doubt to the safety of the food, it is best to discard the food rather than take a chance of contracting a food borne illness.

***When in doubt, throw it out!***

#### **Drinking Water:**

- Listen for reports from local authorities to find out if your water is safe for drinking and bathing.
- If an advisory has been issued concerning contaminated water, use only bottled or boiled water for drinking, cooking, food preparation and hand washing
- Programs in flooded areas whose private wells have been flooded, damaged or showing signs of water that is unusually discolored or has a different odor than normal, should consider their wells contaminated.
- For information on disinfecting flooded wells, go to [www.ct.gov/dph/floods](http://www.ct.gov/dph/floods).
- Throw away any bottled water that may have come in contact with flood or storm water.

#### **Generator Use:**

During natural disasters, when electricity is off for long periods of time, more and more people are turning to gas powered generators to supply power to their homes. **BE AWARE** of the danger of carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning from improper use. To ensure safety during generator use, please keep the following in mind:

- Never use a portable generator inside a home, garage, shed or other partially closed spaces.
- Use them as far away from the facility as possible, but at least 10 feet.
- Use heavy duty outdoor extension cords with 3-prong plugs.
- Follow all instructions.
- A licensed electrician should properly wire and connect home generators.
- Install a CO detector in your space and leave the facility if anyone feels sick, wheezy or dizzy

Please share this important information with parents of children in your care and remember to report all changes in services, including closings and re-openings to the Department at 1-800-282-6063 or 1-860-509-8045.

For more information on staying safe and healthy after a disaster or storm, visit [www.ct.gov/dph](http://www.ct.gov/dph)



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