COVID-19 GUIDANCE FOR CHILD CARE

As COVID-19 cases continue to climb, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) continues to provide guidance for child care programs. Child care programs are strongly encouraged to follow all CDC guidance to develop procedures to keep staff and children safe and healthy.

Ohio continues to offer COVID-19 vaccinations. The best thing you can do to fight COVID-19 is to protect yourself, your family, and your community! Visit this gettheshot.coronavirus.ohio.gov to book your appointment.

ODJFS CHILD CARE RESOURCES FOR PROGRAMS

Program Page – Stay up to date with child care policy and find more information about Step Up To Quality, Publicly Funded Child Care, and licensing and certification.

Provider Pandemic Child Care – Access the latest pandemic resources in the Pandemic Child Care Tool Kit.

EMAIL COMMUNICATIONS

Are you receiving email communications from Child Care? Communications are sent to child care programs using the program email address in OCLQS. If you are not receiving communications, log into OCLQS to ensure your information is up to date. To add other email addresses to the communication listserv, please email childcarepolicy@jfs.ohio.gov.

DISASTER RESOURCES TO HELP YOU HELP CHILDREN

We all need to feel safe. Children may feel overwhelmed when unplanned changes are made to their routines. Especially during times of disaster, children need to feel safe. Child Life Disaster Relief created five new resources on tornadoes, hurricanes, earthquakes, floods, and fires. They also identified 5 Essential Needs of Children After Disaster. The resources provide a developmentally appropriate explanation of each disaster, preparation tips, coping strategies, play opportunities, and expressive art ideas.

For more information, see Disaster Specific – Child Life Disaster Relief (cldisasterrelief.org).

FARM TO EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION COALITION

Is your child care program interested in purchasing food from local producers in your area? How about starting a garden to teach kids where food comes from? The Ohio Farm to Early Care and Education Coalition is working on local food purchasing projects with several child care programs around the state. They’re learning how to make connections with local producers to get the freshest food to children in care.

If you’re interested in purchasing even one local item monthly or starting a garden at your site, visit Early Care and Education (osu.edu). This website has program contact information and guidance for buying, preparing, and serving local foods in the classroom.
IMPORTANT UPCOMING POLICY CHANGES

Child care center, family child care home provider, in-home aide, and day camp rule revisions will become effective in October. Be sure to check out the Upcoming Policies page to view them in advance before they are posted in the eManual.

Do you know how a proposed rule becomes an actual rule? Below are the steps a draft rule takes to become effective:

1. ODJFS identifies need to draft new rule or amend existing rule or 5 year rule review*
2. Rules put through Clearance process for public comment
3. Business Impact Analysis and public comments reviewed by Governor’s Office for impact on small business
4. Rules put through public hearing process
5. Rules are presented to Joint Committee for Agency Rule Review (JCARR)
6. Rules effective and published in OAC

*At least every five years, each rule must be reviewed by ODJFS
Resources for Families

What can parents and teachers do to help children make a successful transition to in-person learning and care? Check out this resource from the CDC: COVID-19 pandemic: Helping young children and parents transition back to school | CDC.

RESOURCES FOR PARENTS TO SUPPORT CHILDREN’S TRANSITION TO SCHOOL

What can parents and teachers do to help children make a successful transition to in-person learning and care? Check out this resource from the CDC: COVID-19 pandemic: Helping young children and parents transition back to school | CDC.

CHILDTAX CREDIT SIGN-UP TOOL

Families who need help receiving the federal Child Tax Credit (CTC) and any stimulus payments or corrections should visit getCTC.org. The resources on this page were created by the U.S. Treasury Department, the White House, and the nonpartisan organization Code for America.

The American Rescue Plan Act, signed into law on March 11, 2021, increases the CTC to provide up to $300 per month per child under age 6, and up to $250 per month per child ages 6 to 17. Families can receive payments of up to $300 per child every month starting from July through December 2021. They will need to file a tax return in 2022 to receive the rest of the payment.

ODIOKAN

The Ohio Kinship and Adoption Navigator (OhioKAN) is a new flexible and responsive kinship and adoption navigator program designed to assist children, caregivers, and families. OhioKAN serves:

- Any kinship and adoptive family residing in Ohio;
- Both formal and informal kinship families; and
- Families who have adopted privately, publicly, or internationally.

OhioKAN navigators believe that families are inherently capable of finding solutions to the circumstances and challenges they face. Their approach is both supportive and objective. They listen to caregivers and link them to services and resources that can make it easier for them to care for children. You can find more information at OhioKAN - Kinship & Adoption Navigator or by calling 1-844-OhioKAN (644-6526).

ODJFS CHILD CARE RESOURCES FOR FAMILIES

The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services provides early learning and development resources for families on its Families Home Page. The agency also provides pandemic-related resources for families at Family Pandemic Child Care.

PUBLICLY FUNDED CHILD CARE

The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services provides reimbursement to providers that care for children in the Publicly Funded Child Care Program. Ohio’s recently passed biennial budget raised the amount families can earn and still qualify. To become eligible, a family’s income must be below 142% of the federal poverty level (FPL), or 150% of the FPL if the family has a child with a verified special need. If you are a Publicly Funded Child Care provider, feel free to share this flyer.