Dear Providers,

We are excited to share that yesterday, Governor DeWine announced that child care providers may reopen on Sunday, May 31st. Understanding the need to protect staff and families during this unprecedented time, new rules and procedures will be implemented. These rules include reduced ratios, increased sanitation, health screening, handwashing protocols and reporting requirements for exposure to COVID-19. The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services will also provide recommendations around best practices for how to temperature screen, handwash and sanitize, create a fever and return policy, and facilitate parent drop-off and pick-up in a webinar that will be available next week via http://jfs.ohio.gov/cdc/index.stm

We value each and every one of you and understand the important role you play in our children’s lives and to the workforce. We want to make this transition as easy as possible. Over the next weeks you will receive multiple communications around new rules, rules training, closure of pandemic licensed programs and payments. To begin to get you acquainted with the upcoming changes please see the attached document which provides a brief overview of the rule changes and best practices.

Keeping you informed and working together as we transition into a new normal is of the utmost importance. Today you will receive a link to take a survey. We ask that all providers take the survey, regardless of if you plan to reopen. The survey will help the State navigate next steps, drive future policy decisions and provide a snapshot in order to gauge resources needed.

Finally, know that grant opportunities will be forthcoming to provide support as a result of the reduced ratios and to assist with the cost of COVID-19 supplies such as sanitizer, gloves, etc. Please stay tuned for more details on when those will be available and how to apply.

If you have questions, please use the contact information below.

**How to reopen under your previous license or close your pandemic program:** your licensing specialist
**Payments:** Child Care Help Desk at CCIDS_business_unit@jfs.ohio.gov or 1-877-302-2347, option 1
**Policy:** Policy Help Desk at childcarepolicy@jfs.ohio.gov or 1-877-302-2347, option 4

Thank you for your continued service to Ohio’s families and children.