

DATE: MARCH 18TH, 2020

TOPIC: COVID-19 & CHILDCARE

SOURCE: UPDATE FROM GOVERNOR AND LT. GOVERNOR. / MN DEPT OF HUMAN SERVICES

BACKGROUND

Quoted from the Governor and Lt. Governor update on March 16th. “As childcare providers, you play a critical role in our communities persevering through this health crisis. We would appreciate it if you continued to care for kids and their families and would like to support you if you decide to remain open. For any providers who choose to stay open during this time, if your staff are ill, and need to be tested for COVID-19, we will prioritize the testing of these staff in our lab. Also, if you do stay open, we encourage you to prioritize serving children of health care and emergency workers.”

KEY POINTS

- Recommendations from the Governor and Lt. Governor are as follows:
 - If a family does not include health care or emergency workers, ask them to keep their children home or use a family, friend or neighbor to provide care in order to make capacity for new families.
 - Consider expanding your hours to accommodate longer shifts of emergency workers.
 - Let us know (DHS) if you are choosing to remain open and if so, how many children you could serve [here](#). We (DHS) are working with community partners to identify families in need.
 - Use this form if you have any space available during this health crisis.
- With this new guidance, the social distancing of children will require new practices. For larger childcare settings this could include separating or staggering multiple smaller groups within your facility. Complete updated guidance can be found [here](#).
- During this time of emergency, we need leaders to stand up and help our emergency services continue to operate. Remaining open, even at reduced capacity, can help enable emergency and healthcare workers to do their jobs. Should you decide to close, we would ask that you consider continuing to care for children of healthcare and other emergency workers in your community.
- Helpful information and links:
 - DHS Hotline number: 888-234-1268

DHS Form for Childcare: <https://survey.mn.gov/s.asp?k=158439734205>
