

Date 6-17-2010

Dear Provider,

This letter contains a number of updates and important messages. Please take a few minutes to read this letter and call your licensor or registrar with any questions you may have.



New Law Affecting All Day Care Programs

Exciting news! Governor Paterson signed a new bill into law on 6-16-2010 that contains changes affecting all modalities of child care programs. A summary of the specific changes affecting your program and information concerning how the Office of Children and Family Services' (OCFS) will implement the law is attached to this letter. In addition, the Division of Child Care Services (Division) is planning sessions with providers to explain the new law and answer any questions you may have. Updated news about these sessions will be posted to the Division's website at: <http://www.ocfs.state.ny.us/main/childcare/default.asp>, as soon as a plan is in place.



New Certification Needed for Contractors

As of April 22, 2010, any contractor, including renovators, electricians, HVAC specialists, plumbers, painters and maintenance staff, who disrupts more than six square feet of lead paint in pre-1978 homes, schools, day care centers and other places where children spend time must be EPA lead safe certified. Dust from renovation, repairs and painting can contaminate an entire home and, if inhaled or ingested, can cause irreversible damage to children and adults. Be safe! Make sure your contractor is EPA certified. For more information go to: <http://www.epa.gov/lead/pubs/renovation.htm>.



Renewing Medication Administration Training (MAT)

Help us to help you! MAT recertification notices are mailed directly to the medication administrant's home address 3-4 months prior to the certification expiration date. Please contact the MAT program if you or your staff's home address and/or place of employment have changed since you initially took the MAT course. In addition, the medication administrant needs to be listed in the Child Care Facility System (CCFS) for the correct program. Without the correct address and a correct listing in CCFS we can not notify medication administrants when their on-line recertification training is due. This could cause a lapse in their authorization to administer medications. Please direct correspondence regarding mailing address to mat@pdp.albany.edu or call (866) 665-5537 and update your licensor or registrar with staffing information.



Pool Season and Home-Based Care

Spring/Summer season means open swimming pools and the need to be vigilant about safety and outdoor water hazards. Family-based providers using pools must review any previously approved pool plan and call their licensor/registrar if anything has changed re: layout, use plan, structural changes (deck, stairs, etc). Providers who wish to be approved to use a residential pool for the first time will need OCFS approval prior to pool use. Contact your licensor/registrar before you plan to include pool use in your activities. For more information visit: http://www.ocfs.state.ny.us/main/childcare/pool_guide_lines.asp



Do NOT Flush or Pour Unwanted, Unused or Expired Medications down the Drain

In the past, flushing was considered the best way to keep unused and unwanted medications from children, teenagers and others who might accidentally or intentionally ingest them. Due to increasing awareness about the potential effects of medications on the food chain, the best way to dispose of drugs is to return them to the child's parent or toss them in the trash wrapped in other garbage items. OCFS has updated the *Health Care Plan Guidelines* to include this information. For more on this topic visit: <http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/45083.html#How>.



New On-Line Training Coming Soon

Stay Tuned. OCFS is working on two **new on-line training** courses called: *Managing Challenging Behaviors – Birth to 18 months* and *Keeping Children Safe – Lead Prevention*. When the training modules are complete, an announcement will be posted to the Division of Child Care Services website under the heading “*What’s New*” at: <http://www.ocfs.state.ny.us/main/childcare/default.asp>.



Survey Concerning Regulatory Changes

OCFS is in the process of reviewing regulatory changes. The Division presented ideas at two recent day care center and family-based provider conferences and asked for feedback to an on-line survey. The survey remains available on the OCFS website at: http://www.ocfs.state.ny.us/main/childcare/daycare_regs_Discuss.asp. Let us hear from you. *School Age Child Care survey will be coming soon.

Have a safe and fun summer! Thank you for all you do for the children of New York State.

Sincerely,

Janice M. Molnar Ph.D.
Deputy Commissioner
Division of Child Care Services