



Ned Lamont
Governor
Susan Bysiewicz
Lt. Governor

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

OFFICE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD



Connecticut Office of
Early Childhood

Beth Bye
Commissioner

August 20, 2020

To Our Early Childhood Partners,

The Office of Early Childhood and the Department of Public Health have reviewed the class size restrictions in place to support optimal health in child care programs, including preschool, before and after school, and camp settings during the COVID-19 public health emergency. As with all COVID-19 guidance, updated recommendations from the American Academy of Pediatrics and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention are considered as well. With this information, the decision has been made to increase the allowable group size in child care programs, including public school preschools, before and after school programs and camps to 16 children.

This change is made knowing that our state's data regarding disease transmission remain low, and that programs are required to meet numerous health and safety protocols and requirements, as explained in guides released by the Office of Early Childhood. The guides for child care centers, family child care homes and home visitors are located here:

<https://www.ctoec.org/covid-19/oecs-covid-19-guides/>. Programs should continue to follow the guidance for operating found in the guides to support the health and wellness of children, staff and their families.

We expect to issue a formal memo and reiterate various requirements that provide the framework for health and safety practices in the next 10 days.

Also we want to make early childhood programs aware of the updated CDC and Academy of Pediatrics guidance on the wearing of masks. *“Children 2 years and older should wear a mask over their nose and mouth when in public settings where it’s difficult to practice social distancing. This is an additional public health measure people should take to reduce the spread of COVID-19 in addition to (not instead of) the other everyday preventive actions listed above.*

Pediatrics: <https://www.aappublications.org/news/2020/08/13/covid19facecoverings081320>

CDC: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/children/protect-children.html>

OEC is in the process of evaluating this new information with the DPH and Office of the Governor to determine whether a requirement pertaining to children wearing face coverings in

child care will change. Wanted to let programs be aware of this update for your program operations purposes.

In Partnership,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Beth Bye". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Commissioner Beth Bye